



VOLUME
03

DANGEROUS LIAISONS

STARKINGS • MORITAT • CHURCHLAND • ROSHELL • COOK

向 ANGELOUS

ELIASONS

ELPHANTMEN



STORY & LETTERING
RICHARD STARKINGS

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CHRIS BURNHAM
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GREGORY
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TATTO CABALLERO
for **PHOTOBUNKER**

DESIGN
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of **COMICRAFT**



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HARDCOVER ISBN 978-160706-250-9 • **SOFTCOVER** ISBN 978-160706-268-4



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THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ELEPHANTMEN



There is . . . there really is. There's something special about *Elephantmen*.

Let me try to explain.

It's December in Massachusetts, the week before Christmas. There's sixteen inches of snow outside my window; the temperature is hovering around twenty degrees with a wind chill of minus seven.

As I sit down to re-read the comics that will comprise this latest *Elephantmen* collection, something crazy happens.

Suddenly I'm sitting in a beat-up beach chair in the backyard of my folks' Lynn, Massachusetts house. It's summer vacation and I've just bought my newest stack of comics for a buck at the smoke shop. I've been transported back to a time that shaped my tastes in comics, movies and books. It was a time when I could barely wait week to week for my newest, four-color fix, or to search the next issue of TV Guide to see what movies would be playing on *Creature Double Feature*.

No sooner do I open the cover of *Elephantmen*, than I'm immersed in the world of Mystery City and its genetically engineered inhabitants: Hip Flask, Ebony Hide, Obadiah Horn, as well as the very special humans who walk

alongside them - Miki, Vanity Case, Sahara, the Silencer, and the past (and present) evil of the MAPPO corporation. I feel the same excitement I did when I discovered a Hammer Studios monster movie I'd never seen before, or the first issue of a new series drawn by that guy who did *Fantastic Four* over at Marvel.

That guy who did *Fantastic Four* - the King.

Jack Kirby has an awful lot to do with how I ended up. Inside his comic books was an energy that very few others could match. I loved his work at Marvel, but when he went to DC in the seventies, something seemed to be set loose within him. *Kamandi: the Last Boy on Earth* was the book that did it for me. A post apocalyptic earth where animals - apes, dogs, rats, tigers - have been mutated into humanoid creatures, fighting for dominance over the disaster ravaged world. *Kamandi* is our boy hero, and we see this strange and terrible future earth through his eyes.

Kamandi, the *Planet of the Apes* films (and the short lived television series) were my first real exposure to post apocalyptic fiction...and I couldn't get enough. I loved the idea of a world destroyed and strangely altered by some sort of disaster, be it nuclear war, super plague, or whatever a creator pulled from



his twisted mind. It opened my eyes to a new kind of storytelling that I still love to this day.

Another of my favorites, and quite influential in its own, crazy way were the Atomic Knights. Originally appearing in issues of DC's *Strange Adventures* in the early sixties, I didn't become aware of the characters until some of their stories were presented again in the twenty-five cent *Strange Adventures* reprint title during the seventies. Created by John Broome and Murphy Anderson, The Atomic Knights were a band of heroes living in the post apocalyptic future of 1992. They wore medieval suits of armor that were impervious to the dangerous radiation that had been unleashed during the Hydrogen War of 1986. Of course all sorts of mutated life forms abounded, my favorites being giant Dalmatians that the Knights rode into battle. Absolutely crazy, and I freaking ate it up.

Marvel Comics tried its own hand at some post apocalyptic weirdness with *The Guardians of the Galaxy*. First appearing in a 1969 issue of *Marvel Super Heroes* #18 (I read a reprint of the issue published in the seventies), written by Arnold Drake, and drawn by the amazing Gene Colan, the planet earth had been ravaged by reptilian invaders called the Badoon, and only warriors from various colonized, alien worlds could hope to defeat the intergalactic threat. Following up on the alien invaders theme, the Martians from H.G. Wells' classic science fiction novel returned to conquer the earth in *Amazing Adventures* #18 (1973) featuring *War of the Worlds*. In this series, created by Roy Thomas and Neal Adams, Killraven and his band of warrior freedom fighters did battle with the Martian menace

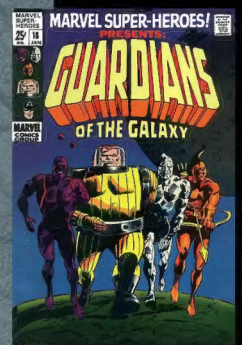
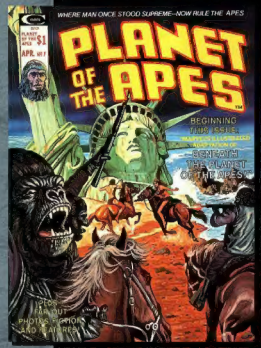
that had reshaped the world in their own, terrible image. The future of Deathlok the Demolisher, as envisioned by Rich Buckler, and Doug Moench, and featured in *Astonishing Tales* #25-36 (1974), followed Colonel Luther Manning, who after being fatally injured, is reanimated in a post apocalyptic future as experimental Deathlok cyborg, where he does battle with evil corporate and military regimes that had taken over the United States.

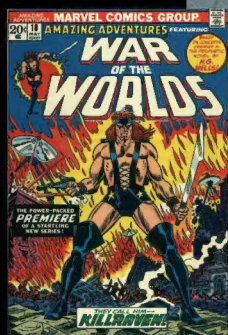
All these titles transported me to different times, places and environments, filled with characters so fully realized, and larger than life that they could barely be contained on the comic book page.

In the early nineties I even took a crack at post apocalyptic storytelling with the creation of my comic book series for Caliber Press, *Swords of Shar-Pei*, and its sequel, *Guns of Shar-Pei*. With artist Mark Masztal, I envisioned the world we knew wiped away by some sort of nuclear disaster, but gradually returned to life through the application of bizarre science. The main character of the series, a genetically altered Chinese fighting dog, wandered the strange landscape of a twisted earth, encountering all manner of monstrous creations, and threats. The series was a blast to do, and even spawned a spin off years later when Crusade comics allowed Mark and I to return to Shar-Pei's world with the mini-series *Dogs of War*.

Characters like Kamandi, the Atomic Knights, and so many others permanently burned their awesomeness into my brain, making me remember how amazing comic books were.

And some still are.





Imagine my delight when I stumbled across *Elephantmen*. Here was almost everything that I loved about those funky, post apocalyptic titles from the seventies. Using Mystery City, and the wonderful characters that populate it, Richard Starkings continues to touch upon many of the same themes, and ideas that attracted me to the comics that I have just mentioned; twisted future worlds, animals altered by genetic tampering, larger than life heroes - and villains. From Part One of the *Dangerous Liaisons* arc to the last, Starkings' story had me, seeding each issue with hints of a much bigger story on the horizon, and guaranteeing that I would be returning for future issues.

And of course there's the art, an equally important factor to capturing the energetic spirit of the comics from my youth. The *Dangerous Liaisons* eight-parter had multiple artists, each bringing their own style and verve to the stories. Chris Burnham, Moritat, Rob Steen, Marian Churchland, Boo Cook, and André Szymanowicz all did a remarkable job bringing the world of the *Elephantmen* to life, channeling the spirits of Jack Kirby, Rich Buckler, Neal Adams, Murphy Anderson, and all the others who have depicted twisted, future worlds. Many of these artists were new to me, but now I can't wait to follow their work.

Add some remarkable coloring by Gregory Wright and Tatto Caballero, and lettering by Comicraft - and you have magic.

Pure and simple.

Why can't more of today's comics be like this? Solid storytelling, strong and visually exciting

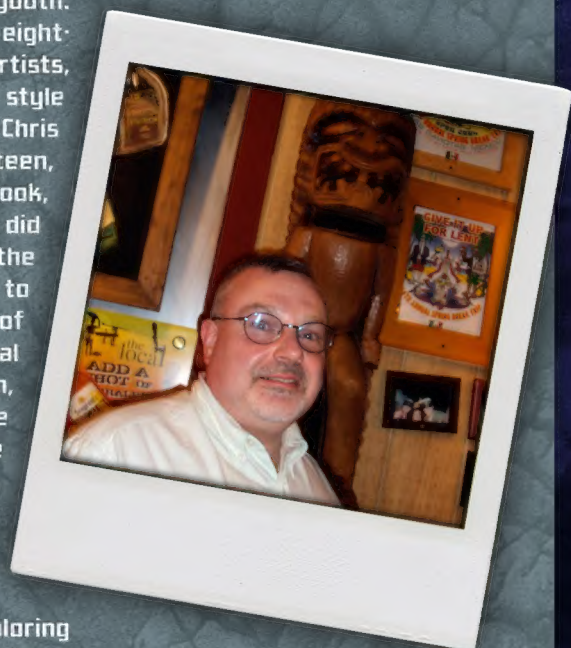
artwork. Sadly they're not, but that just makes *Elephantmen* all the more special.

And now, if you'll excuse me, the New England winter is howling outside, but I've got a date with some comics that will transport me back to a warm, July afternoon in the middle of summer vacation.

What can I say, there's just something about *Elephantmen*.

Something special.

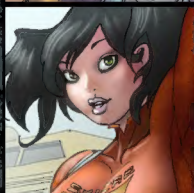
TOM SNEGOSKI
December 2009



THOMAS E. SNEGOSKI HAS WRITTEN SO MANY BOOKS, AND COMIC BOOKS THAT IF HE HAD TO LIST THEM ALL HIS HEAD WOULD PROBABLY EXPLODE.

HE LIVES IN THE WILDS OF MASSACHUSETTS WITH HIS LONG SUFFERING WIFE, AND A DOG WITH THE ABILITY TO CLOUD MEN'S MINDS.

THE STORY SO FAR...



FLASK • VANITY • MIKI • GRUENWALD • EBONY • SERENGETI • SAHARA • HORN

2259: HIP FLASK, EBONY HIDE and OBADIAH HORN are Elephantmen; survivors of a war fought between Africa and China over the European countries ravaged by the deadly FCN virus. That war is long since over and over 15,000 Elephantmen have been rehabilitated by the United Nations and scattered throughout the globe to live peacefully among humans. Flask and Hide work for THE INFORMATION AGENCY as Crime Scene Investigators.

Horn, perhaps the most celebrated Elephantmen of all, is a popular socialite, screen personality and business magnate. He is also the Chairman and CEO of HORN INDUSTRIES, a global business dealing in imports, exports and real estate development, and founder of IVORY TOWERS, which operates numerous casinos and hotels across the world. Horn's extravagant lifestyle, outspoken manner and his engagement to U.N. Refugee Spokesperson SAHARA, have made him the subject of intense scrutiny by the media. Some suspect that his business dealings are not entirely legal, and it is true that those who speak out against him have been known to disappear without trace, or die in mysterious circumstances.

Although GRUENWALD, director of the L.A arm of the Information Agency, has been keeping a close eye on Flask and Hide, it has not stopped them, or their friend, SKYCAB pilot HIROMI "MIKI" KIYOKO, from getting caught up in the events that followed the crash of a mysterious, man-made meteor packed with the FCN Virus in Santa Monica Bay... events which led to an attempt by JOSHUA SERENGETI, a Los Angeles-based crimelord dealing in the illegal buying and selling of Elephantmen body parts, to snatch his daughter, Sahara, away from her fiancée.

Now, Gruenwald has assigned Information Agent-in-training VANITY CASE to help keep Hip Flask out of trouble, perhaps forgetting that Vanity is something of a magnet for trouble herself...

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FEB
2009
#16

DA~~NGER~~OUS LIAISONS one of 8

ELEPHANTMEN™

DESTINY!

*She Knows All
The Silencer's
Secrets...*

*All
Except
One...*



COMPLETE STORY
THIS ISSUE:

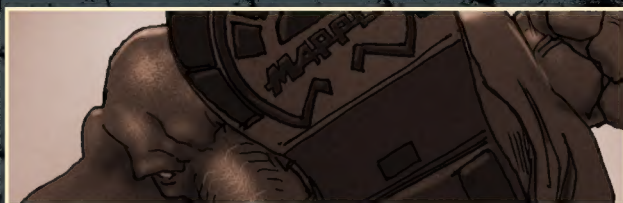
DARK HEART

THE SILENCER

For years he worked at MAPPO turning the Elephantmen into merciless killing machines.



When the Elephantmen were liberated by the United Nations, the Silencer was attacked by a vengeful EBONY HIDE...



...and left to die in the empty corridors of MAPPO's headquarters in North Africa.



Rescued by another Elephantman, he was taken to a nearby town for treatment.



Now he lives in Los Angeles, where he kills people - and Elephantmen - for money.

"WHY DO YOU
SUPPOSE WE
ONLY FEEL
COMPELLED
TO CHASE THE
ONES WHO
RUN AWAY?"

VICOMTE
DE VALMONT,
DANGEROUS
LIAISONS



NIGHTTIME, MYSTERY CITY



THE CROCS ARE THE EASIEST.

REPTILE BRAINS.

THIS GUY HAS THREE BASIC RESPONSES TO ANY GIVEN SITUATION. FIGHT, FLIGHT... OR FORNICATION.



AND IF YOU CAN KEEP HIS MIND ON ONE...

HE'LL TEMPORARILY FORGET ABOUT THE OTHERS.

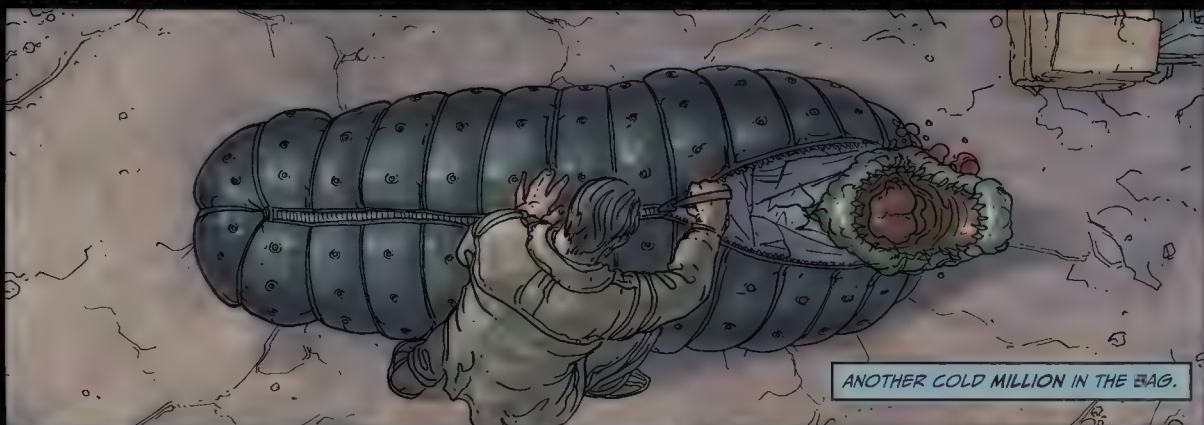


SIX SHOTS OF IMMOBILEN OVER MAYBE TEN PINTS OF BEER AND EVENTUALLY HE SLOWS DOWN.

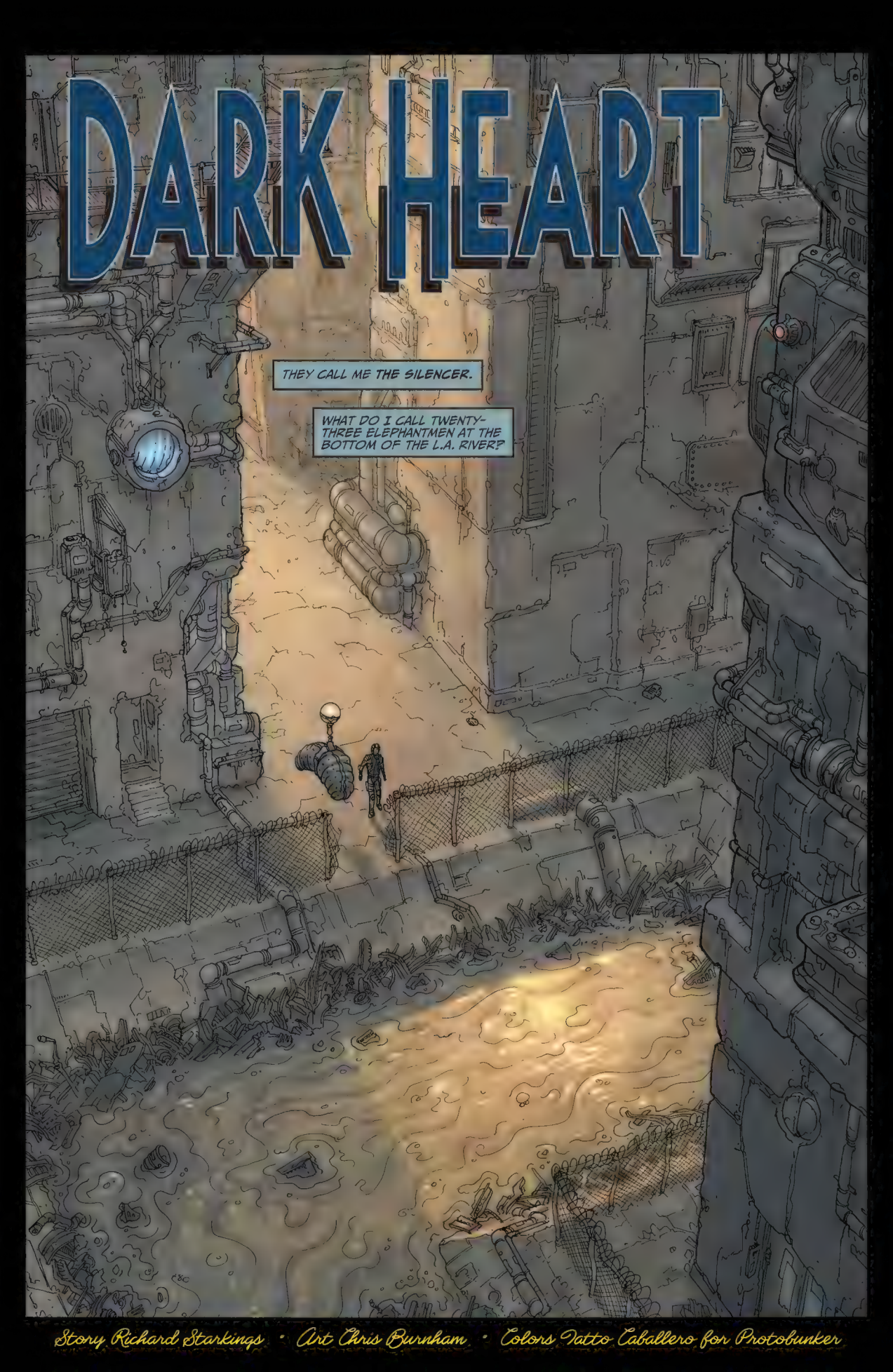
THE ELEPHANTMEN ARE NO LIGHTWEIGHTS BUT THE TRANQ AFFECTS THE SUBJECT MUCH LIKE A BELLYFUL OF HARD LIQUOR IN A REGULAR JOE.

A LITTLE FRESH AIR AND THE EFFECTS ARE ACCELERATED.

EVEN SO, THE TRANQ GIVES ME MAYBE TEN MINUTES MAX.

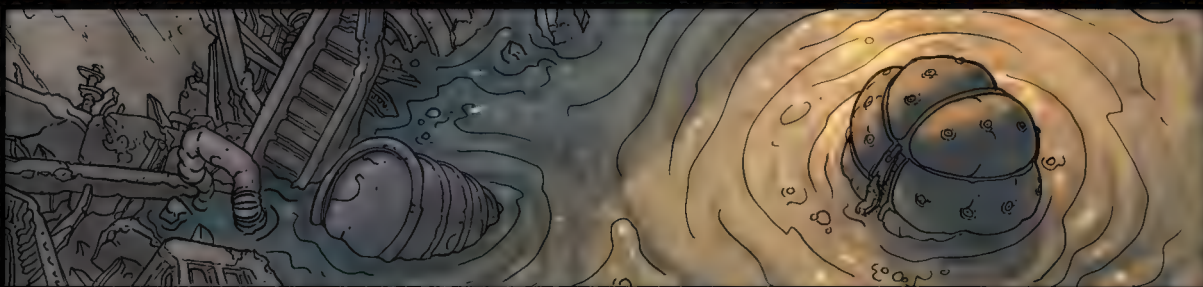
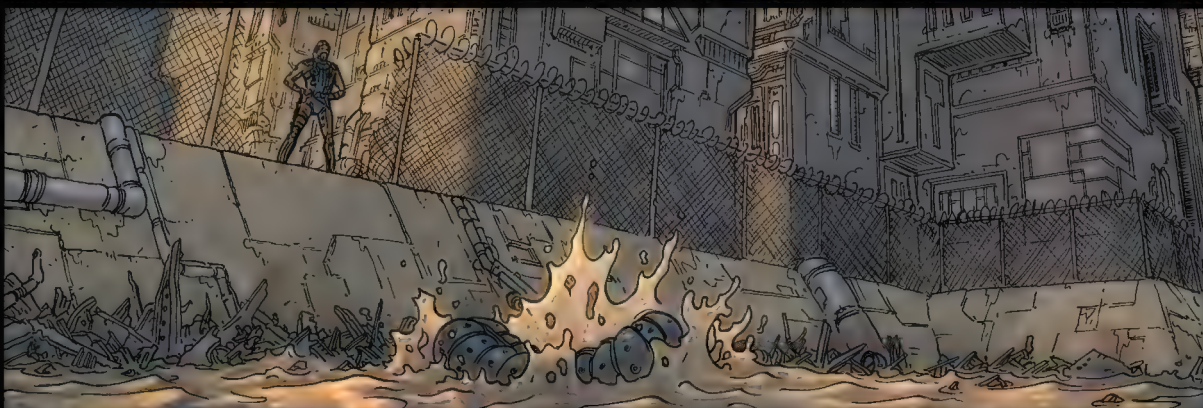
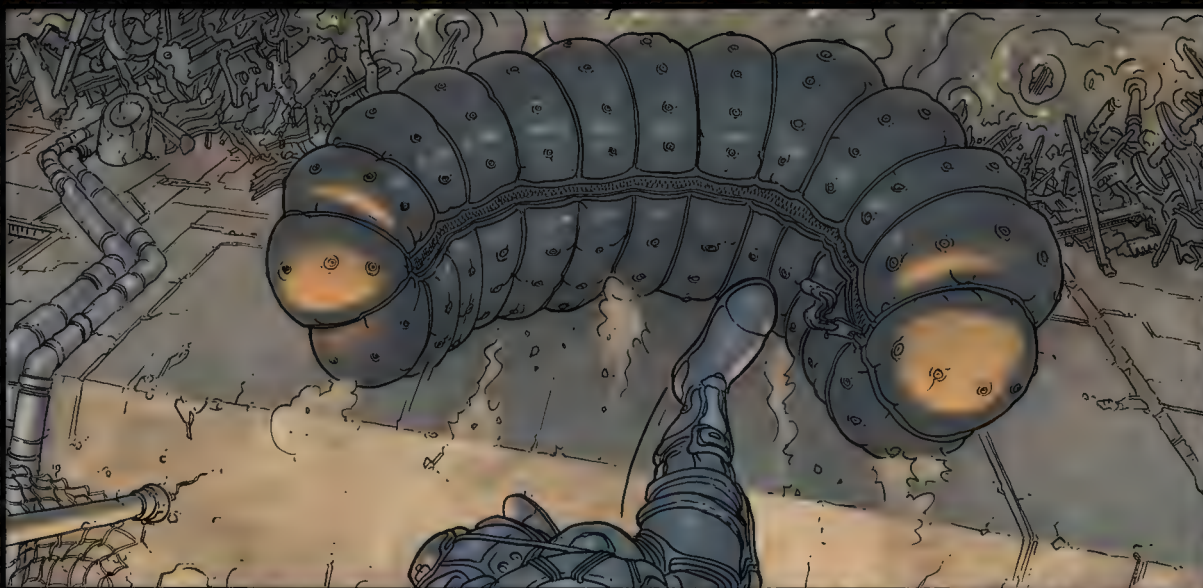


DARK HEART



THEY CALL ME THE SILENCER.

WHAT DO I CALL TWENTY-
THREE ELEPHANTMEN AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE L.A. RIVER?

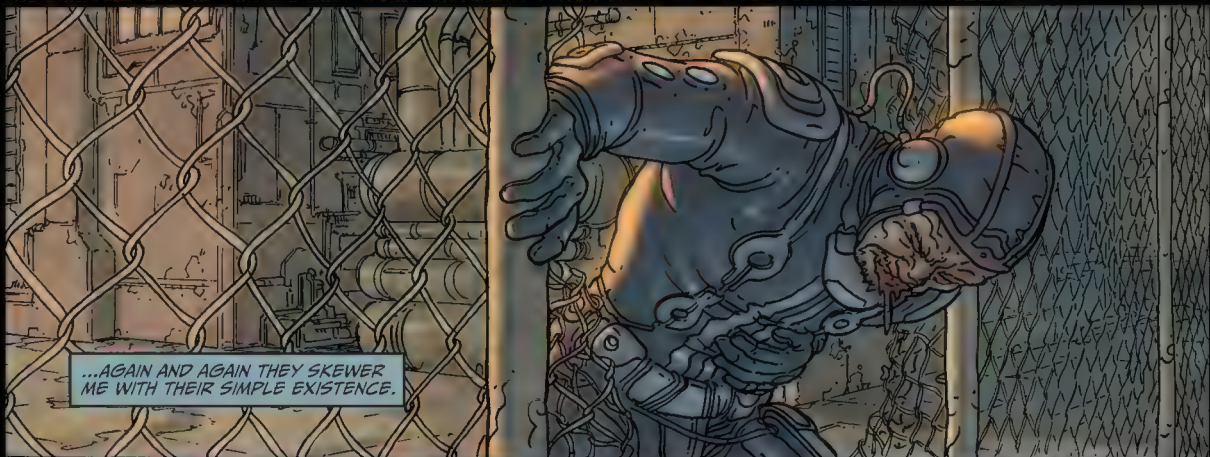
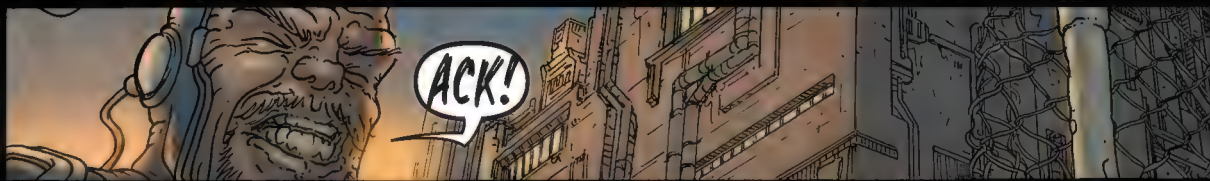


A GOOD START.



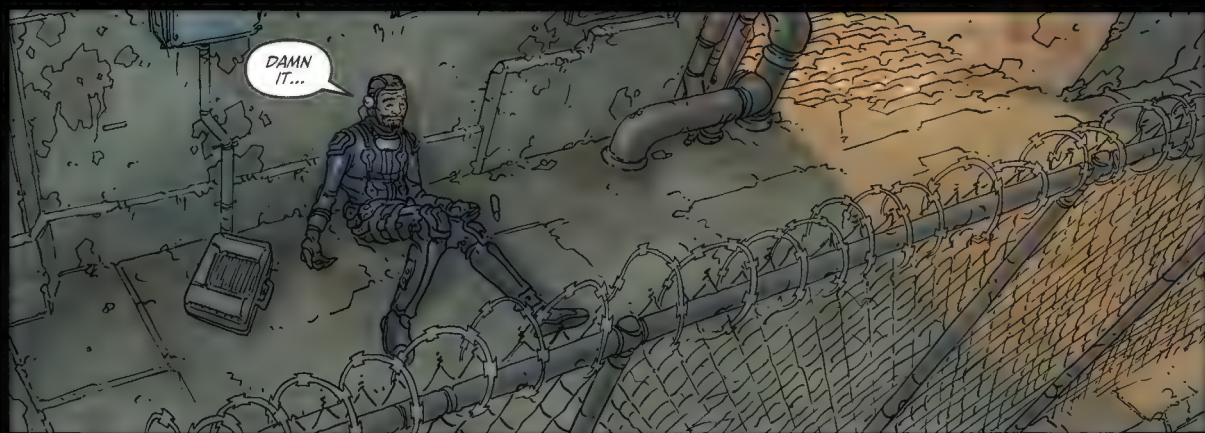
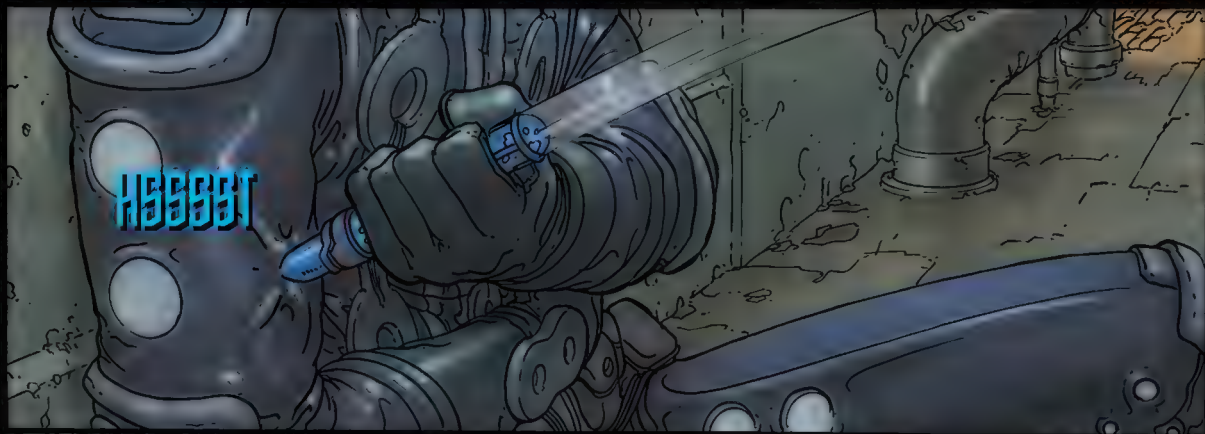
ELEPHANTMEN.

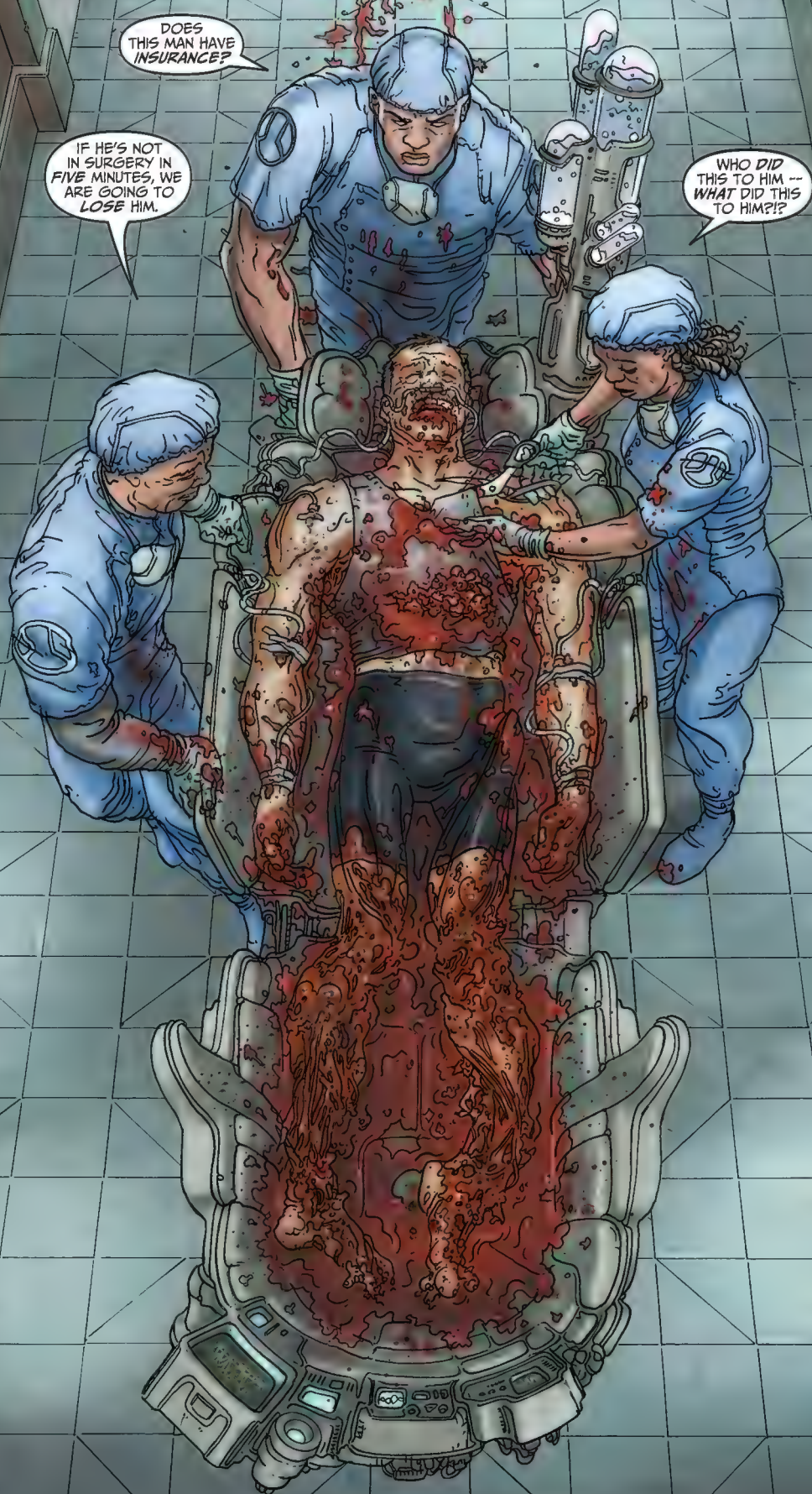
AS MUCH AS I TRY TO LEAVE
THOSE MONKEYS IN THE PAST...



*See ELEPHANTMEN #5



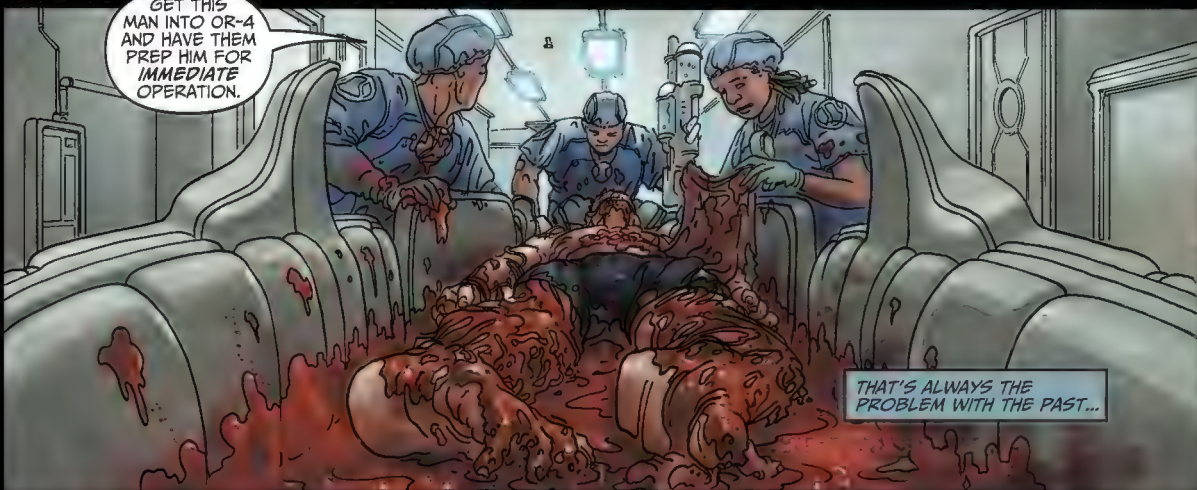
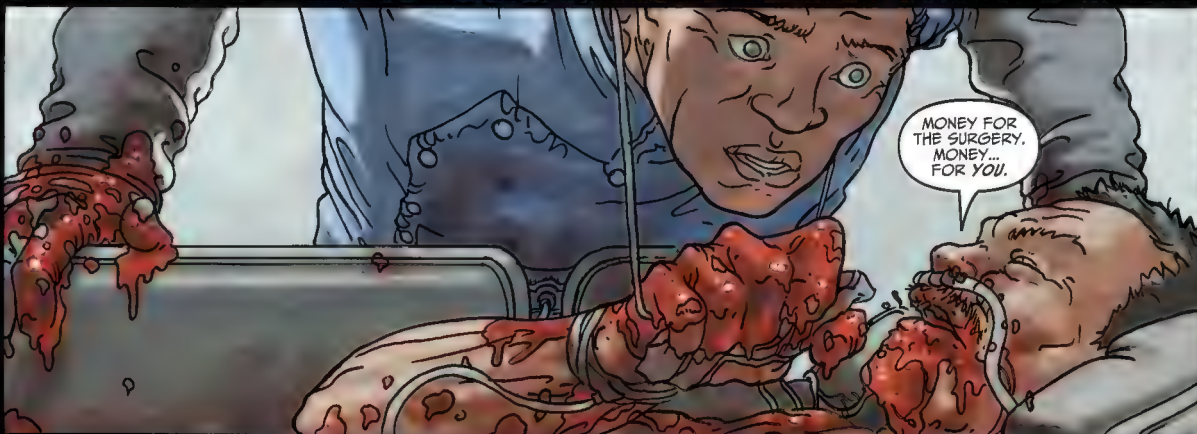
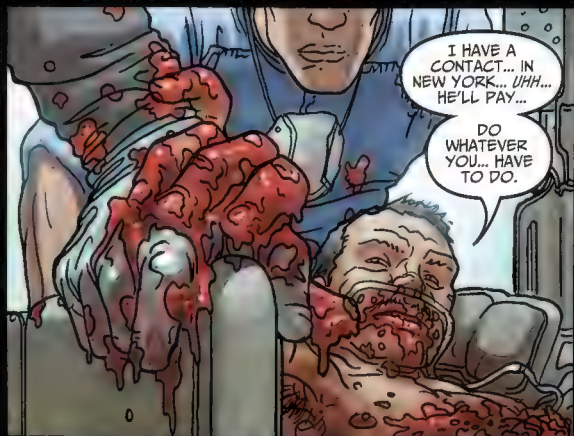




DOES
THIS MAN HAVE
INSURANCE?

IF HE'S NOT
IN SURGERY IN
FIVE MINUTES, WE
ARE GOING TO
LOSE HIM.

WHO DID
THIS TO HIM ---
WHAT DID THIS
TO HIM!?



...IT HAS A HABIT OF CATCHING UP WITH YOU...

WELL,
JUST LOOK
WHAT THE CAT
DRAGGED
IN...





DESTINY. SOMEHOW I ALWAYS KNEW SHE'D CATCH UP WITH ME...

IMPULSIVE, BUT SHE'S NO FOOL.

NO MATTER WHAT WENT ON BETWEEN US, SHE'S NOT GONNA TURN UP ON THE DOORSTEP OF A HITMAN WITHOUT A COUPLA KILLERS OF HER OWN.



TAKE HIS CASE, BOYS.

AND I THINK YOU'LL FIND A SNUB GUN IN HIS SHOULDER HOLSTER.

ANYTHING ELSE HE'S PACKING... IS BEST LEFT ALONE.



IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, DESTINY.

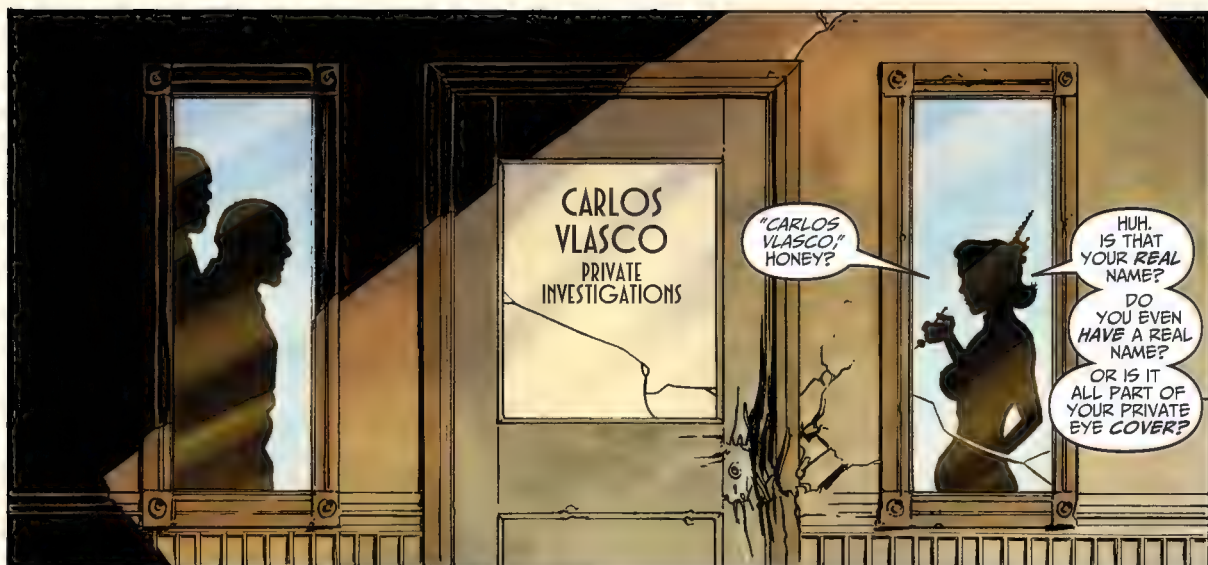
YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING, I'D HAVE BAKED YOU A CAKE.

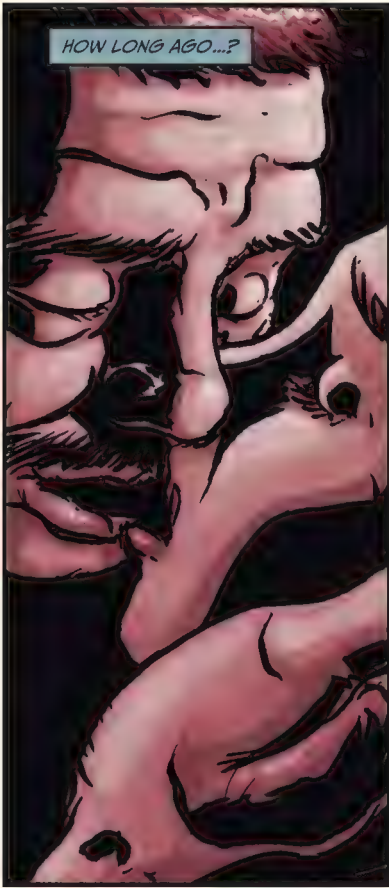


THEN MAYBE I'LL JUST HAVE TO EAT YOU UP INSTEAD...

BRING HIM.







HOW LONG AGO...?

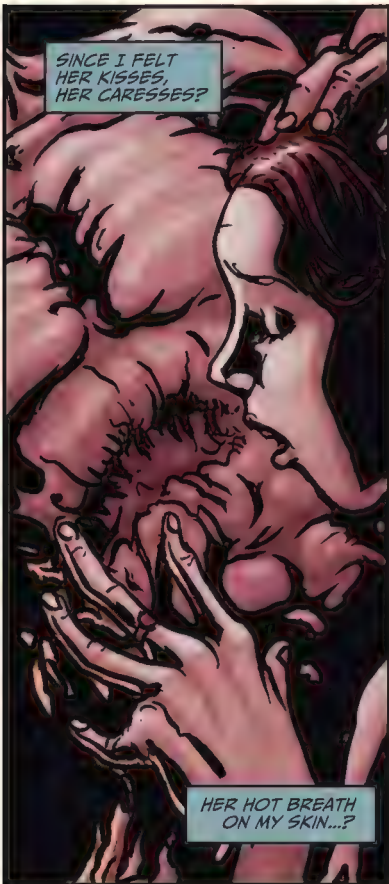


HOW LONG SINCE
I HELD HER IN
MY ARMS?

SMELT THE SWEET
SCENT OF HER HAIR?

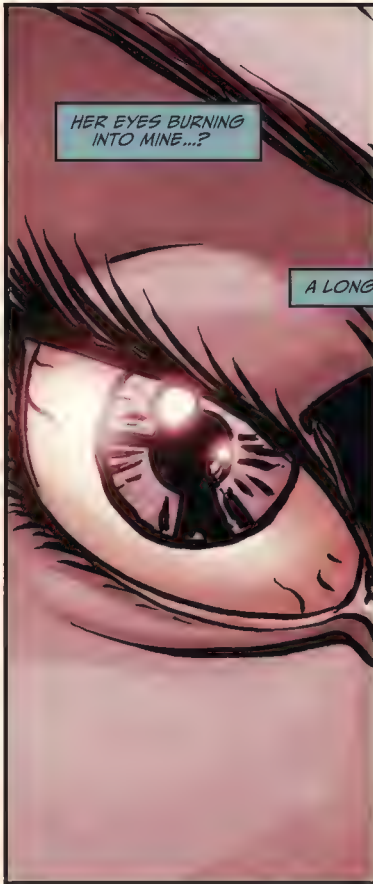


HOW LONG SINCE
THE LAST TIME
HER VOICE CALLED
OUT FOR ME...?



SINCE I FELT
HER KISSES,
HER CARESSES?

HER HOT BREATH
ON MY SKIN...?



HER EYES BURNING
INTO MINE...?

A LONG TIME.



TOO LONG.





THEY'RE THUGS.

I HAD TO GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO DO WHILE WE WERE WAITING.



DESTINY. SO BEAUTIFUL...

SO.

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHY YOU CUT OUT ON US TWO YEARS AGO...

OR IS ONE OF MY BRUTAL FRIENDS HERE GOING TO PAINT THE WALLS WITH YOUR BRAINS?

...SO DANGEROUS.



SO EASY TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HER ALL OVER AGAIN.

IT'S...

COMPLICATED.



YOU CALLED DADDY TO PAY YOUR HOSPITAL BILL AFTER SEVEN YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS...

AND THEN SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR BEFORE YOUR DEBT IS SETTLED?

WHAT GOT INTO YOUR HEAD?

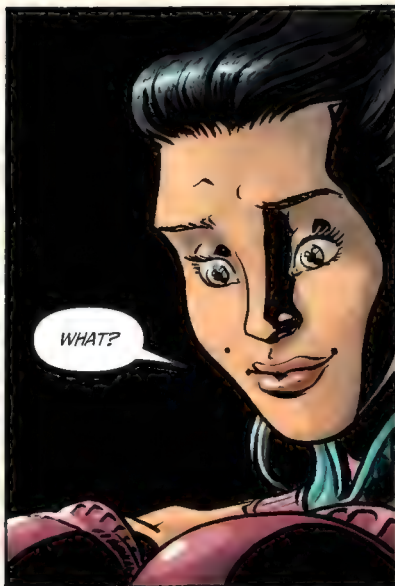
WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON IN THAT DARK HEART OF YOURS?

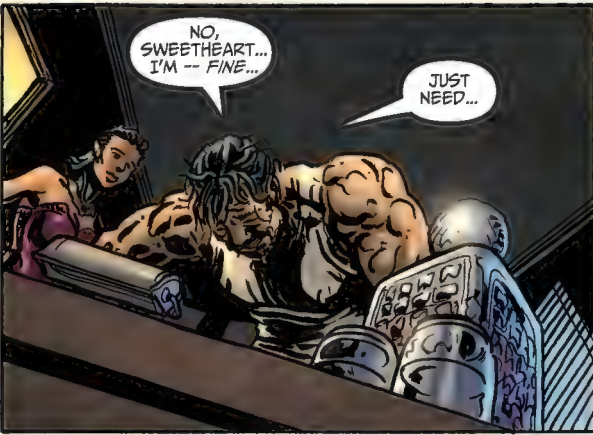
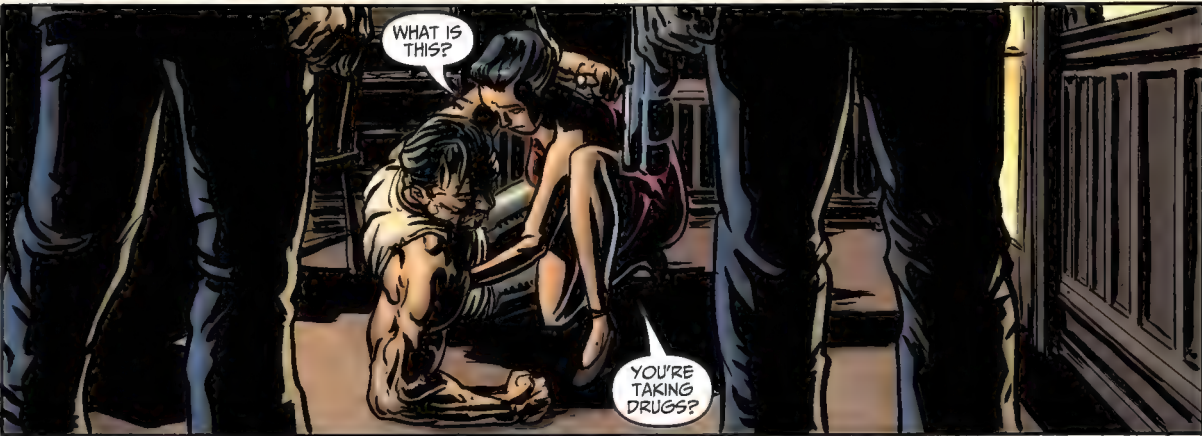
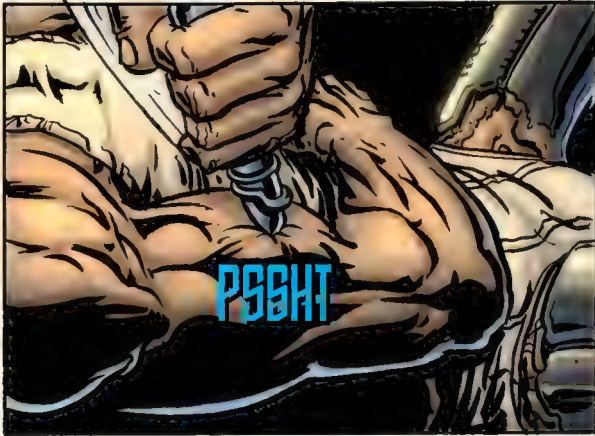
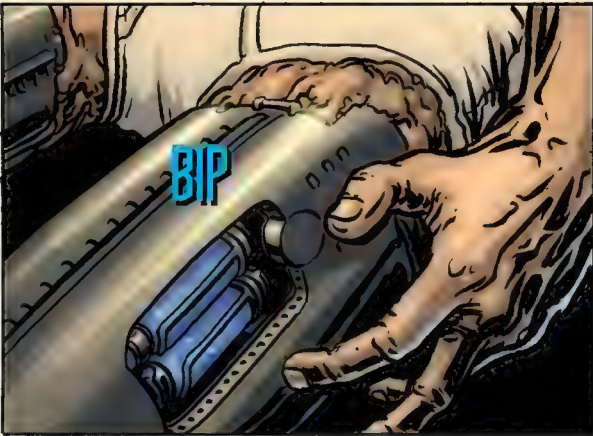
COMPLICATED?
HONEY, WHAT'S COMPLICATED?

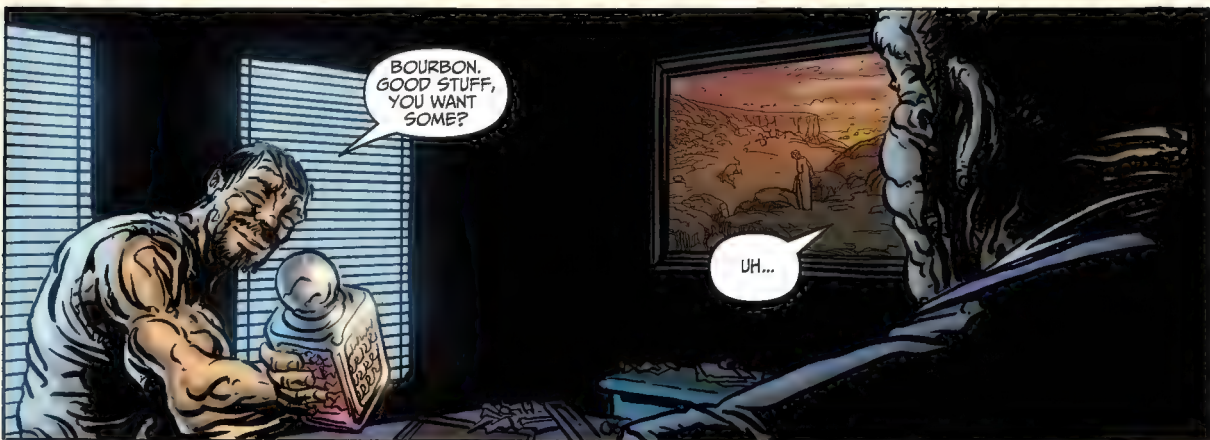


DESTINY...

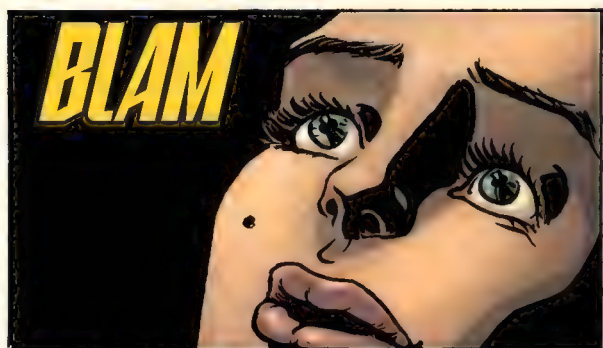
I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO YOUR FATHER FOR SAVING MY LIFE.













CANCER.

THE DOCTORS IN NEW YORK
GAVE ME A YEAR, MAYBE TWO.

WITH TREATMENT, I COULD LIVE
AS LONG AS TEN MORE YEARS.

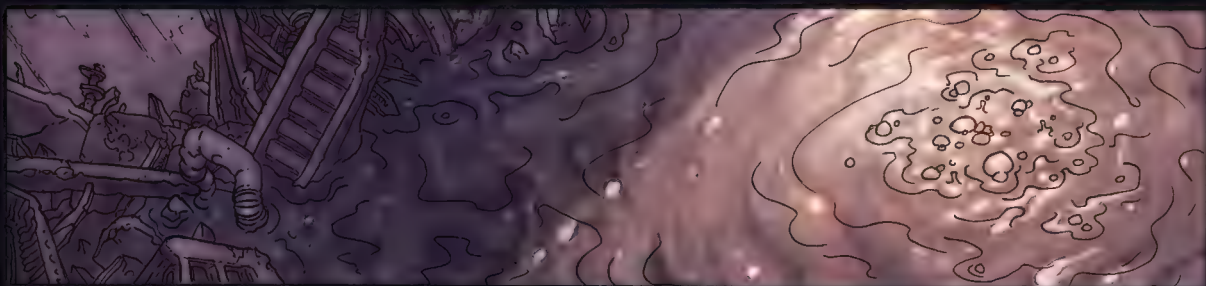
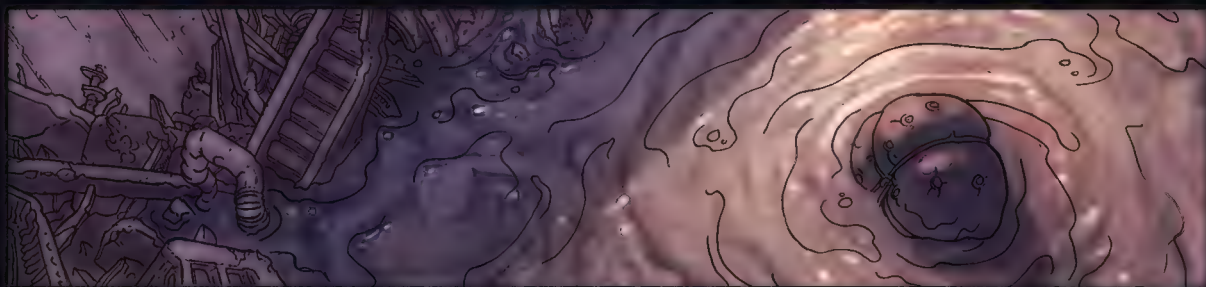
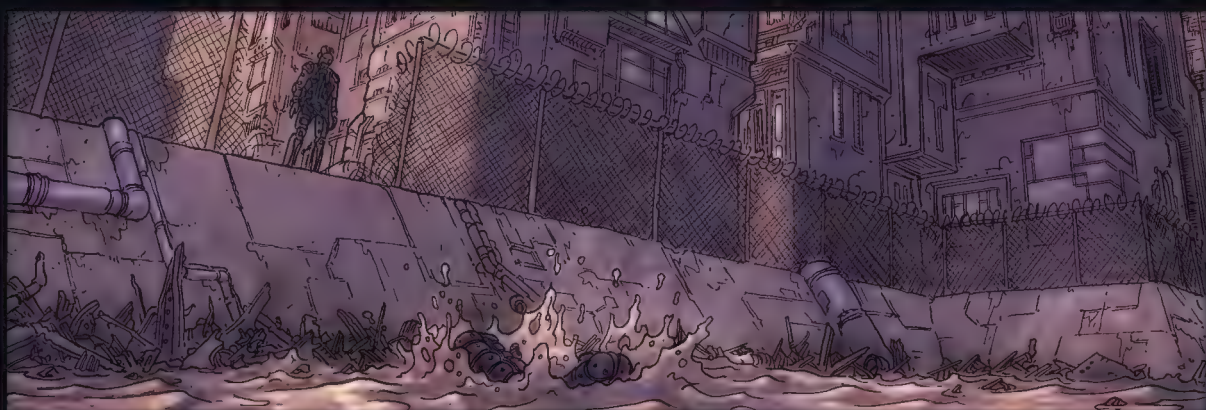
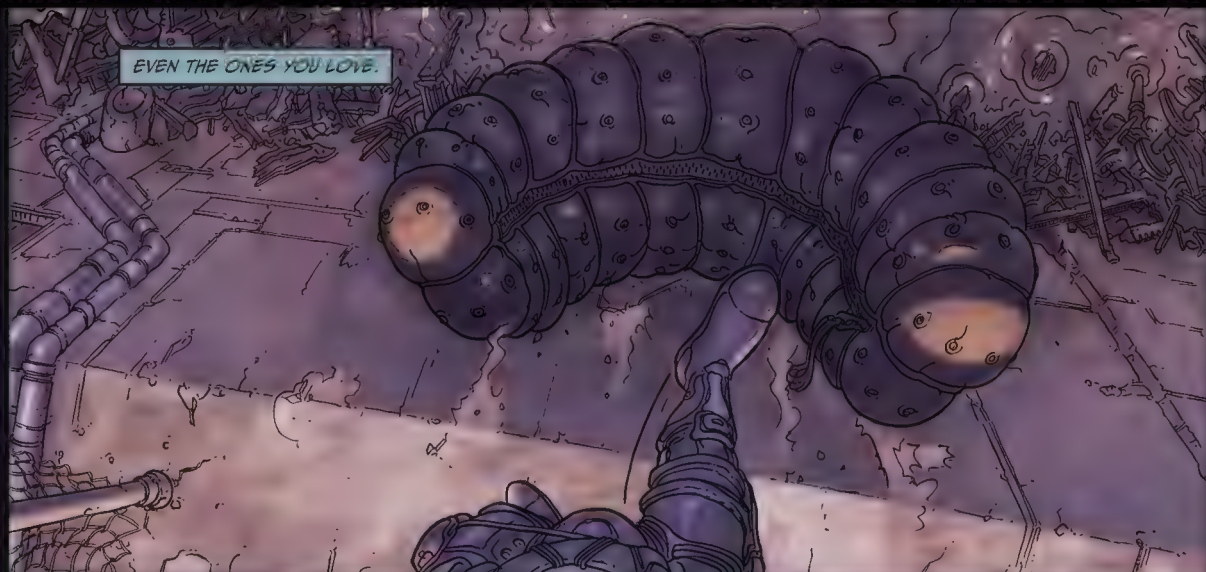
EXPENSIVE TREATMENT.
EXPENSIVE DRUGS.

A MILLION A MONTH.

WAY MORE THAN THE MOB IN NEW YORK
COULD FORK OUT FOR MY SERVICES.

BUT OUT HERE IN LOS ANGELES, THERE
ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THAT KIND OF
MONEY AND ARE HAPPY TO PAY.

THEY CAN ALL BE KILLED FOR
A PRICE. MEN, ELEPHANTMEN.



NIGHTTIME, MYSTERY CITY



DANGEROUS LIAISONS
ELEPHANTMEN

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JOE...
IS THAT
YOU?

COME
HERE AND
GET YOURSELF
WARM...

ANOTHER
NIGHT IN THE
OPEN WILL BE
THE DEATH
OF ME...

DOCKYARD DEMON

ELEPHANTMEN

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ELEPHANTMEN™

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IN FINAL
BATTLE

ONE LIVES,
ONE DIES!

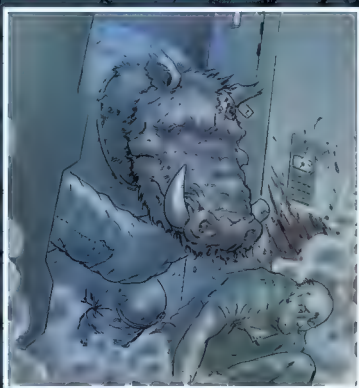
HERE'S
MUD
IN YOUR
EYE!

**TUSK vs
FLASK!**

The **CLASH** *of* **TITANS!**

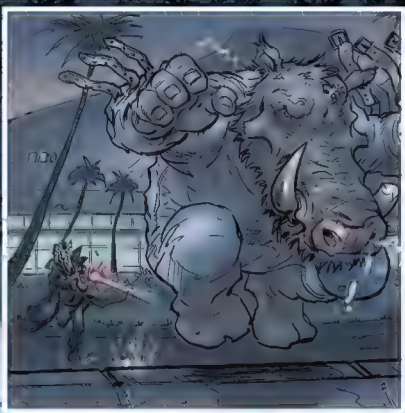
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T U S K



During a skirmish between the forces of SAHARA's father SERENGHETI, and those of Sahara's fiancé OBADIAH HORN, Elephantman and Saint Francis' patient TUSK escaped from his hospital cell.

LAPD
LIEUTENANT
TRENCH leads
a task force
to hunt
down the
unstable and
potentially
dangerous
creature...



"THE SAME
ENERGY OF
CHARACTER
WHICH
RENDERS
A MAN A
DARING
VILLAIN
WOULD HAVE
RENDERED
HIM USEFUL
IN SOCIETY,
HAD THAT
SOCIETY
BEEN WELL
ORGANIZED."

MARY
WOLLSTONECRAFT
SHELLEY

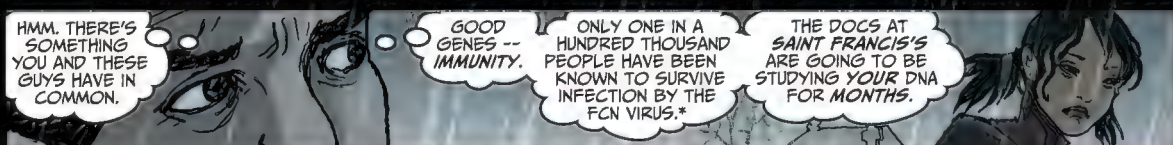


SANTA MONICA, 2259



Framing Sequence by Starkings and Moritat, colors by Gregory Wright







DON'T LOOK
AWAY.

DON'T PRETEND YOU
DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.

DON'T IGNORE THE EVIDENCE
OF YOUR OWN EYES.

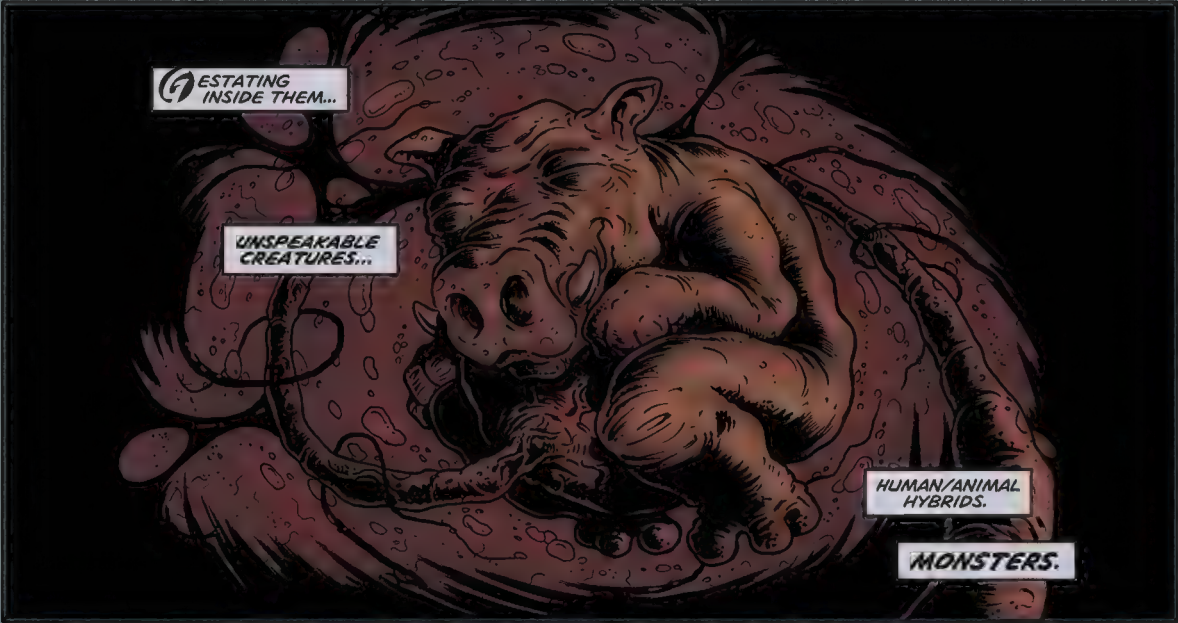
THIS WOMAN
WAS ABDUCTED.

MORE THAN 300,000
WOMEN LIKE HER
WERE ABDUCTED.

IMPRISONED.

IMPREGNATED.

*By Starkings and Rob Steen
Colors by Gregory Wright
with thanks to Gabe Bautista!*

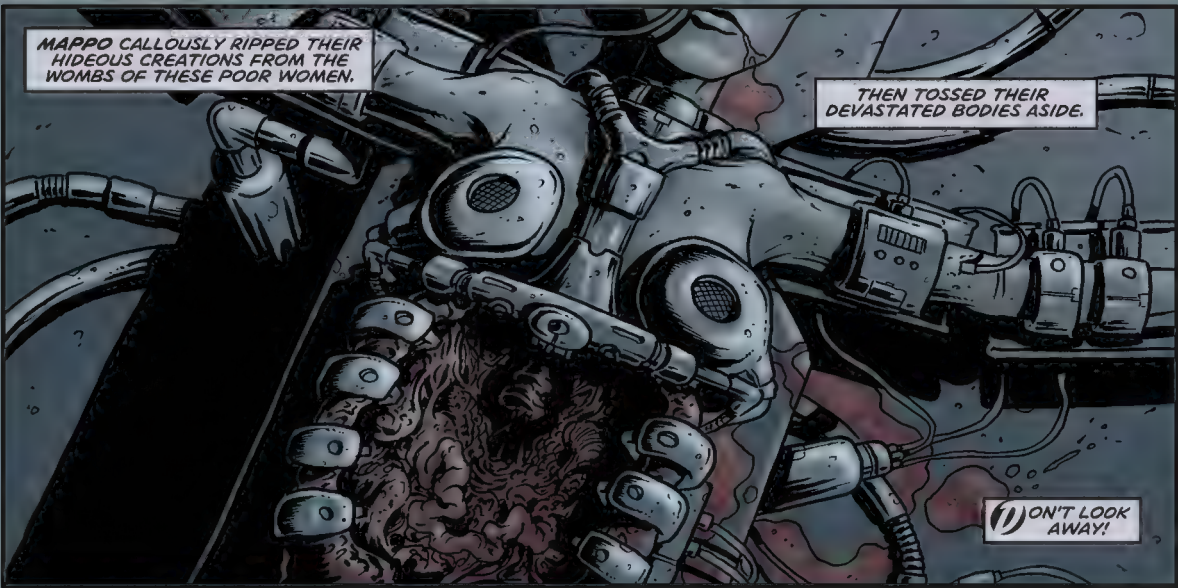


ESTATING
INSIDE THEM...

UNSPEAKABLE
CREATURES...

HUMAN/ANIMAL
HYBRIDS.

MONSTERS.



MAPPO CALLOUSLY RIPPED THEIR
HIDEOUS CREATIONS FROM THE
WOMBS OF THESE POOR WOMEN.

THEN TOSSED THEIR
DEVASTATED BODIES ASIDE.

DON'T LOOK
AWAY!



YOU WANTED STEM CELL
RESEARCH, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU WANTED CURES FOR
HEART DISEASE AND CANCER.

YOU WANTED CHILDREN
FREE OF BIRTH DEFECTS.

DAMMIT -- YOU
ALLOWED THIS
TO HAPPEN.



DON'T BLAME THE
ELEPHANTMEN.

THEY ARE INNOCENT TOO...
MOTHERLESS SONS.

MAPPO BRAINWASHED
THEM, TORTURED THEM...

EMASCULATED
THEM...

SUBJECTED THEIR BODIES
TO POISONS AND DISEASES...



SOME OF THEM
DIED.

SOME WENT MAD.

TUSK WENT MAD.*

MAPPO LOCKED
HIM UP FOR
TEN YEARS.

THE UNITED
NATIONS
LOCKED HIM
UP FOR
ANOTHER
TWENTY.

*See ELEPHANTMEN #4



WHEN HE
ESCAPED.*

SO KEEP YOUR
EYES OPEN...

*See ELEPHANTMEN #15... and #19!

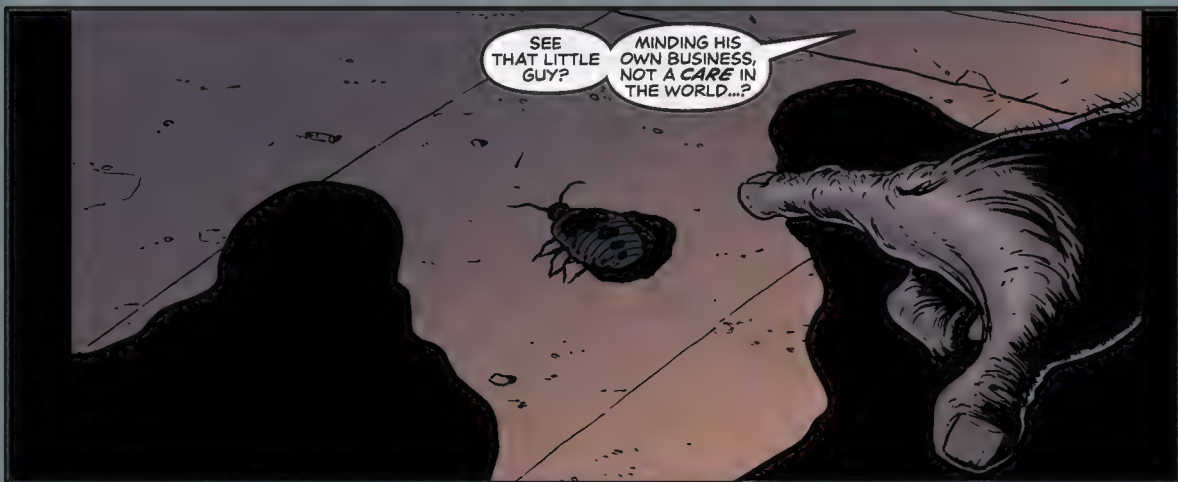
THE MONSTER IS LOOSE!

HE'S OUT THERE IN THE DARK SOMEWHERE.

MAYBE JUST DOWN THE STREET.
MAYBE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

AND IF ANYONE GETS HURT, MAYBE
A SMALL INNOCENT CHILD, MAYBE A
BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN... WELL,
DON'T FORGET...

YOU ALLOWED
THIS TO HAPPEN.



SEE
THAT LITTLE
GUY?

MINDING HIS
OWN BUSINESS,
NOT A CARE IN
THE WORLD...



NOBODY
BOTHERS HIM,
RIGHT?

PARTLY
BECAUSE HE'S
BUTT UGLY, OF
COURSE...

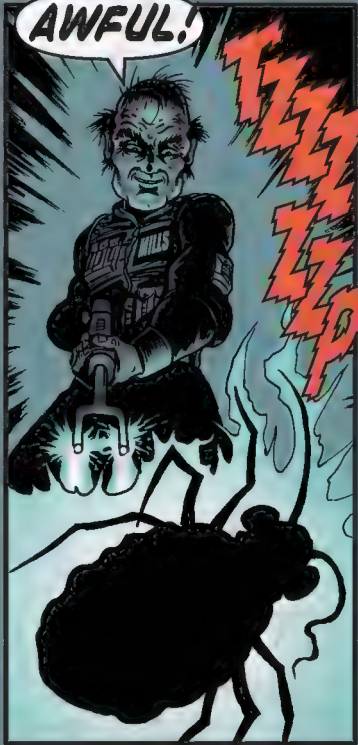
YEAH, HE'S
BUTT UGLY
ALL RIGHT...



....AND
PARTLY BECAUSE
HE'S A STINKBUG AND
WHEN PREDATORS COME
LOOKING, THIS LITTLE GUY
LETS RIP WITH A SMELL
LIKE HE'S BEEN EATING
BEANS AND DRINKING
BEER ALL NIGHT.

BUT THIS
LITTLE DEVICE
HERE HAS GOT
NO NOSE...

HAH!
HOW DOES
IT SMELL?



AWFUL!

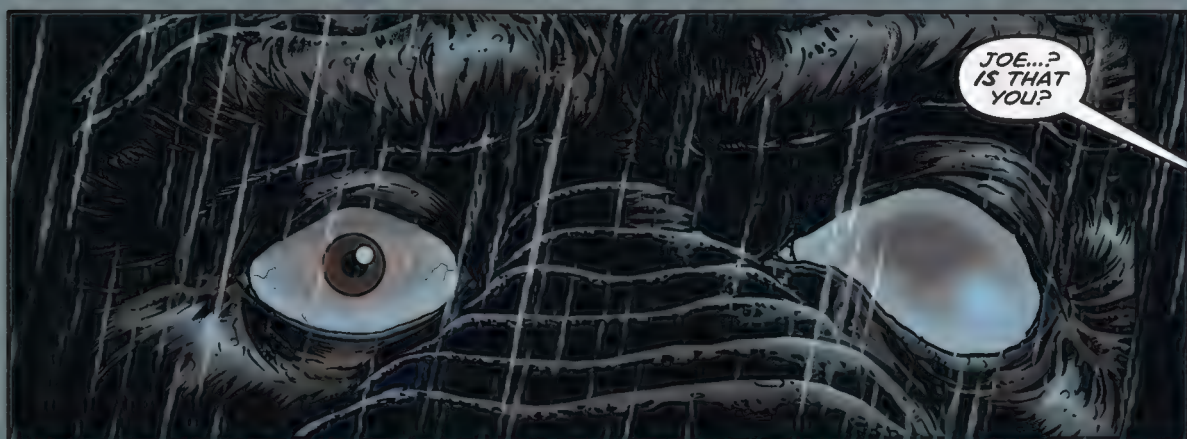
TZZZ
ZZP



SO YOU SEE, WHEN
IT COMES TO HUNTING
DOWN ELEPHANTMEN,
YOU WON'T CARE WHAT
THEY LOOK LIKE, OR
HOW BADLY THEY
SMELL...

AS LONG AS
YOU'VE GOT YOUR
PACIFIER.

OH, YEAH,
HE'S AT PEACE
ALL RIGHT.







WHO'S
THERE?

JOEP
YOU KNOW MY
EYESIGHT'S NONE
TOO GOOD.

TAP TAP



COME
ON *OUT*,
WHY DON'T
YOU...?



I-I CAN
STILL *HEAR*
WELL,
Y'KNOW...

SKUTTUTTATUT







HERE'S THE SITUATION.

WE HAVE A ROGUE TRANSGENIC ON THE LOOSE -- HE'S NOT ARMED, BUT HE'S DANGEROUS. HE'S OVER SEVEN FEET TALL, BUILT LIKE A BRICK SHITHOUSE AND HE'S *KILLED* BEFORE.



APPROACH WITH CAUTION. *SHOOT AT WILL.*

ANY QUESTIONS?



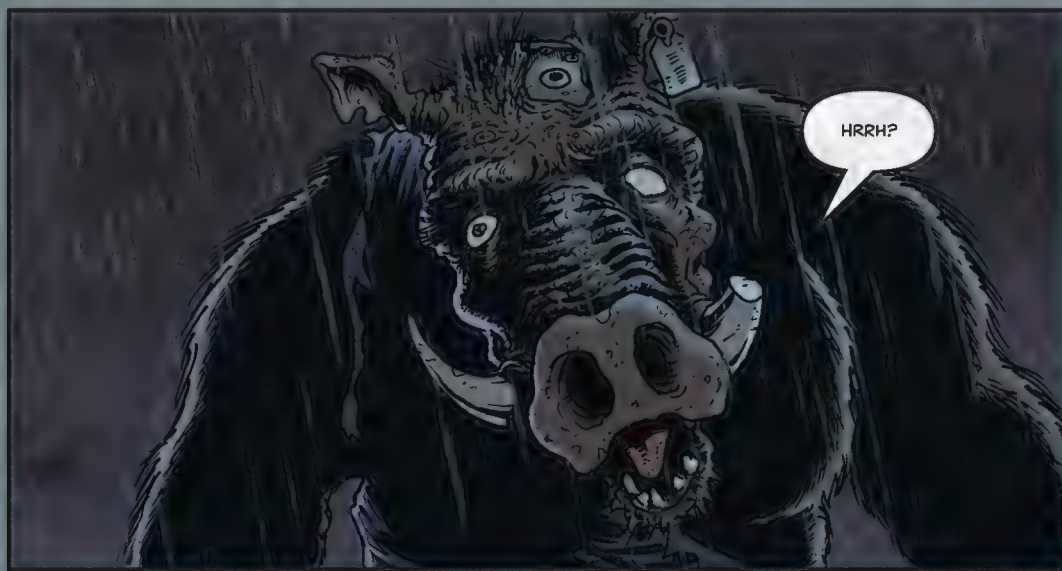
NOT GOOD.

FIND HIM.



LET'S DO IT -- SILENT BUT DEADLY!

FRYING TONIGHT!





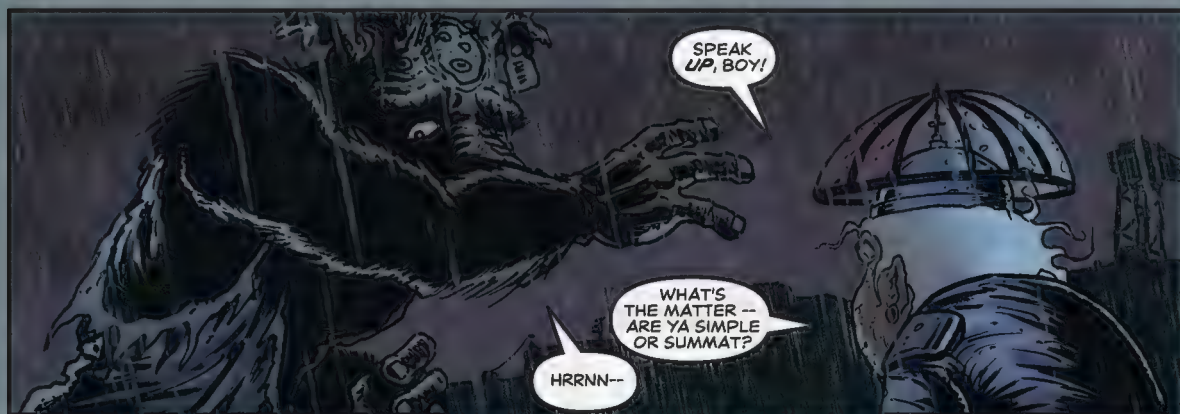
"HRRH?"
WHAT KIND
OF ANSWER
IS THAT?

DON'T YOU
HAVE A *CIVIL*
TONGUE IN
YOUR HEAD,
YOUNG 'UN?



HMMM...
BIG FELLA,
AREN'T
YA...?

ARE YA ONE
OF THEM *DOCK*
WORKERS?



SPEAK
UP, BOY!

WHAT'S
THE MATTER --
ARE YA SIMPLE
OR SUMMAT?

HRRNN--



OH!

YA
POOR THING,
Y'ARE SIMPLE,
AREN'T YA...?



MY WORD --
YOUR KNUCKLES
ARE *HAIRY*, AREN'T
THEY...?

WELL,
THAT PROVES IT,
DON'T IT?



I MEAN, *ALL*
SIMPLETONS HAVE
HAIRY KNUCKLES,
EVERYONE KNOWS
THAT.

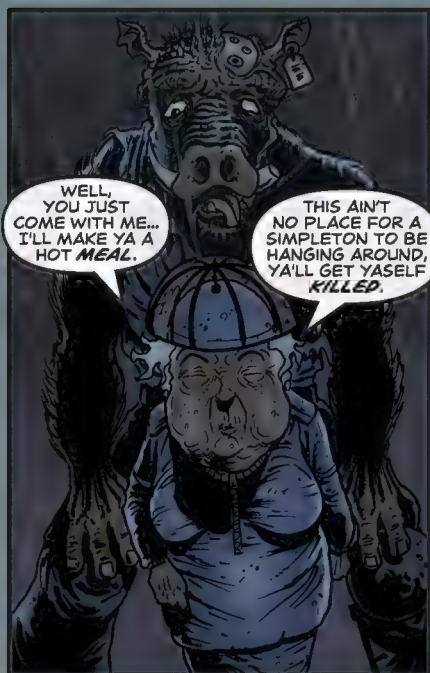
HMP...
AND *SPEAKING*
OF SIMPLETONS...
I WONDER IF
YA'VE SEEN
MY JOE?

I'VE
FOUND HIM
SLEEPING DOWN
HERE BEFORE, YA
KNOW -- IN A
CARDBOARD
BOX!

A *CARDBOARD*
BOX, I ASK YA!
WHEN THERE'S A
MATTRESS WAITING
FOR HIM AT
HOME.



OF COURSE,
EVEN IF YA *HAD*
SEEN HIM, YA
WOULDN'T BE ABLE
TO TELL ME, NOW,
WOULD YA ?



WELL,
YOU JUST
COME WITH ME...
I'LL MAKE YA A
HOT *MEAL*.

THIS AIN'T
NO PLACE FOR A
SIMPLETON TO BE
HANGING AROUND,
YA'LL GET YASELF
KILLED.



THERE'S
ALL KINDS OF
NASTY THINGS
OUT AT NIGHT,
YA KNOW.

NO ONE'S
SAFE.

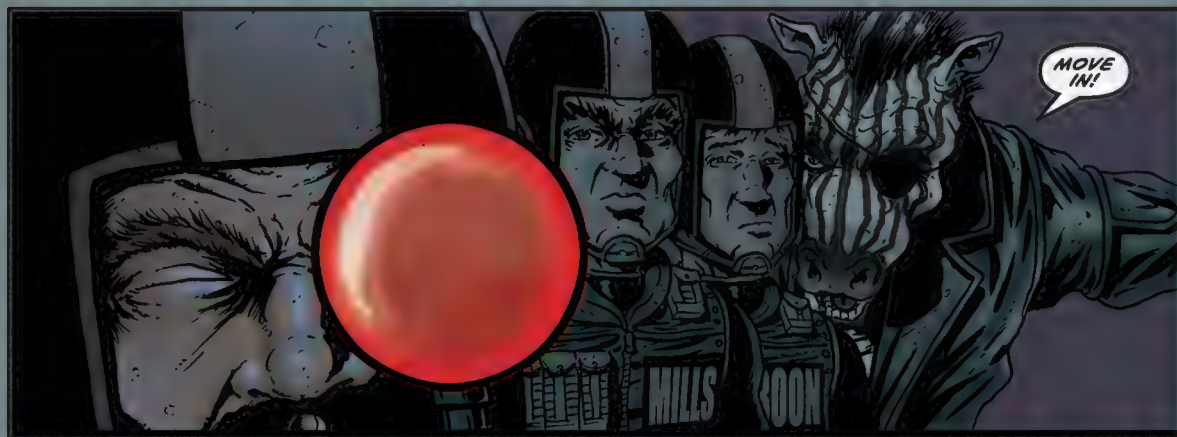


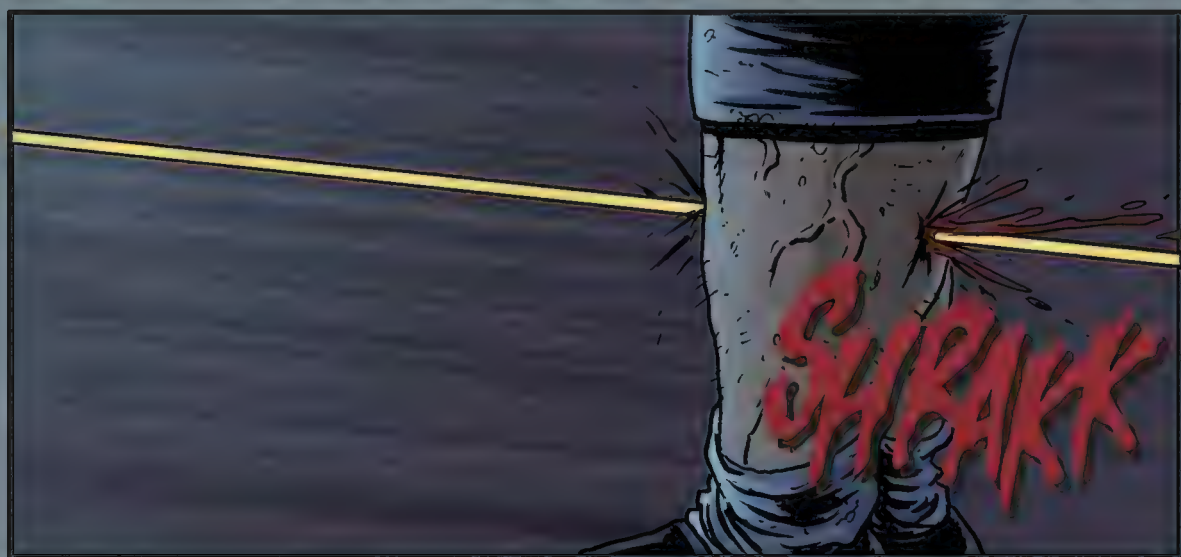
IT'S
WHY I GET
SO WORRIED
ABOUT MY
JOE.

















ON BEHALF
OF THE L.A.P.D, I'D
LIKE TO *APOLOGIZE*
FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE
YOU'VE EXPERIENCED,
MA'AM...

MEDICS
WILL BE HERE
SHORTLY.

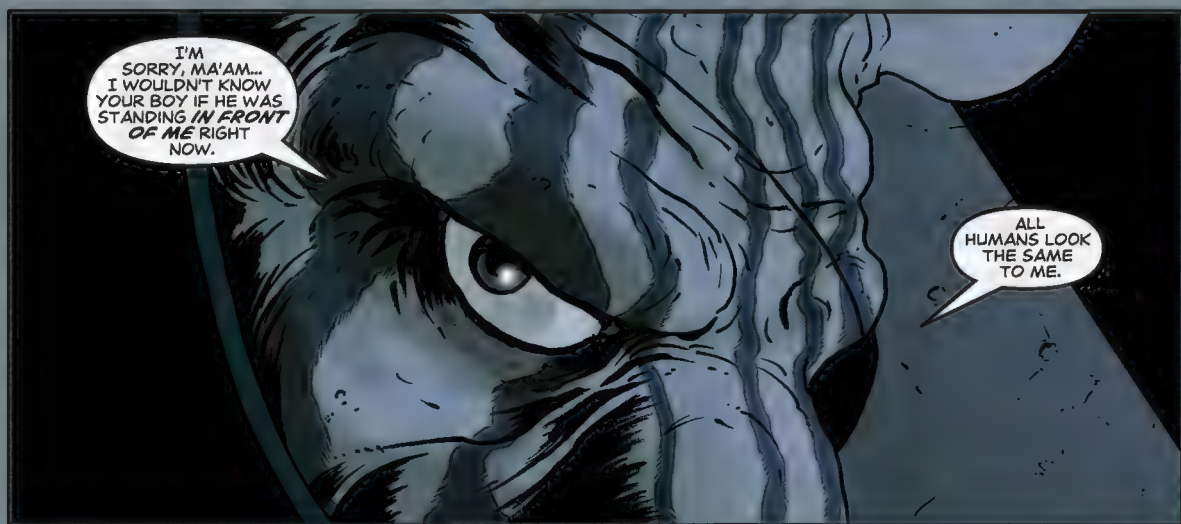
YOU'LL
BE SAFE
NOW.



I WILL...?
OH, GOOD...

IS
MY BOY
HERE...?

HAVE *YOU*
SEEN HIM?
MY *JOE*?



I'M
SORRY, MA'AM...
I WOULDN'T KNOW
YOUR BOY IF HE WAS
STANDING *IN FRONT*
OF ME RIGHT
NOW.

ALL
HUMANS LOOK
THE SAME
TO ME.



MAKE
SURE YOU HAVE
NIGHT CAMERA
ACTIVATED...

YOU
WANT ME TO
SAVE IT AS A
HOLOGRAM?





MISS
SAHARA...

WE
SHOULD
PROBABLY
BE GETTING
BACK.

I THINK
WE'VE TAKEN
ENOUGH RISKS
THIS WEEK,
DON'T YOU
AGREE?*

*See ELEPHANTMEN #13-15 & 19!



JUST A
MOMENT MORE,
SAMUEL...



ELEPHANTMEN

BAD GIRL

BUT IS IT
ART?

STARKINGS · CHURCHLAND
DANGEROUS

CAMPBELL · COOK
LIAISONS
THREE of 8



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STARKINGS • CHURCHLAND

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NEWZEN

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Fertility Rites



Churchland

"FOR MANY
PEOPLE,
MORALITY
MEANS A SET
OF RULES
GOVERNING THE
DISPOSITION
OF ONE'S
GENITAL
ORGANS; OR
A SET OF
INJUNCTIONS
AGAINST LYING,
STEALING,
OR KILLING,
EXCEPT WHEN
SUCH ACTS ARE
SANCTIONED
BY CHURCH OR
STATE."

MARILYN FRENCH



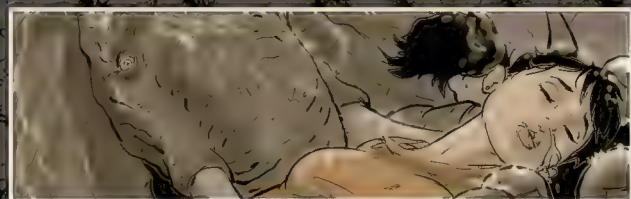
Cab Driver Hiromi Kiyoko - MIKI to her friends - stumbled upon a wounded HIP FLASK by the Los Angeles river.



Always looking for trouble, Miki stopped in on Hip and EBONY HIDE while they were recovering from injuries at Saint Francis's hospital.

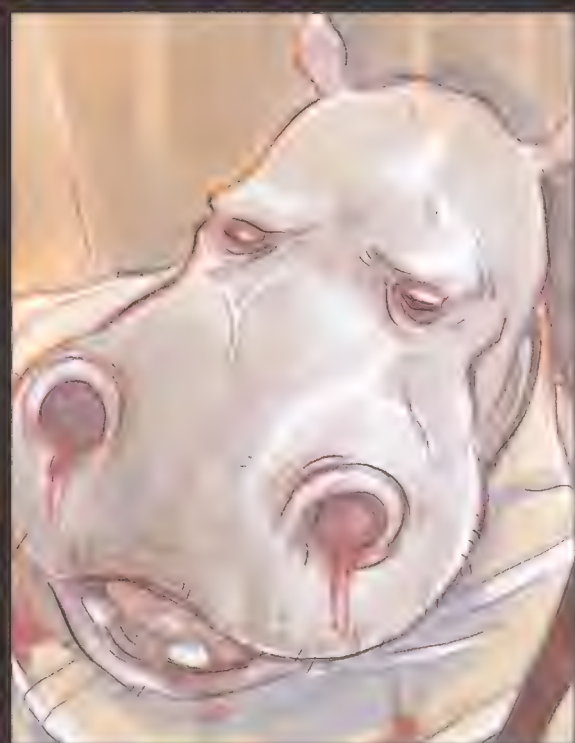
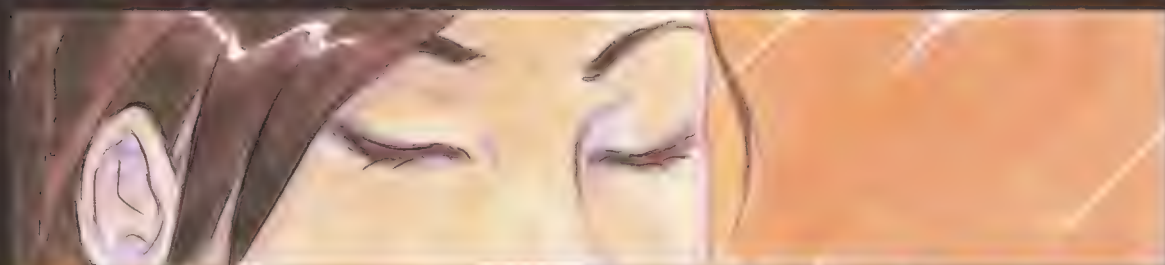
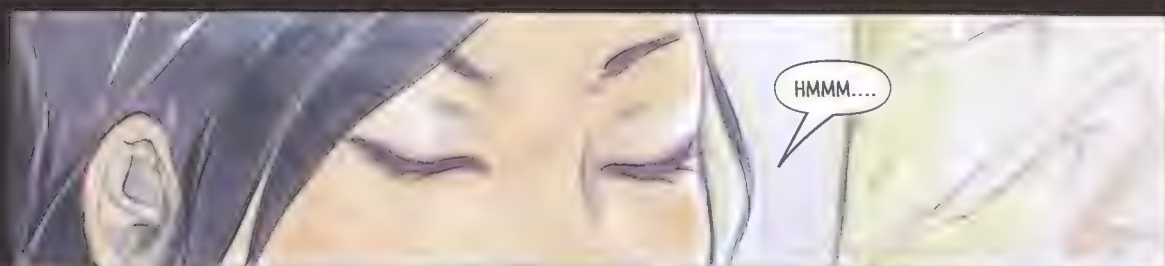


Now her life has become increasingly involved in, and endangered by, the world of the Elephantmen...









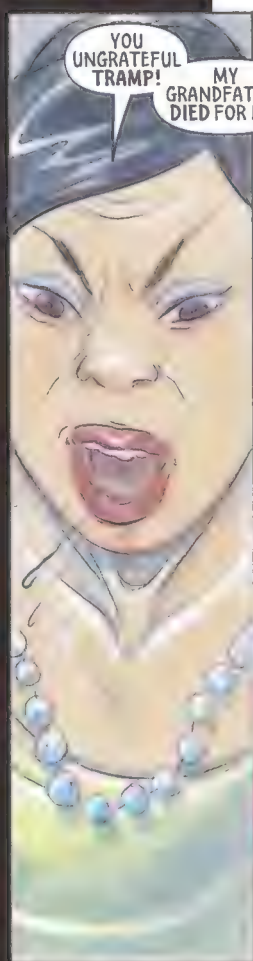


BAD GIRL

By
Richard
Starkings &
Marian
Churchland







YOU
UNGRATEFUL
TRAMP!

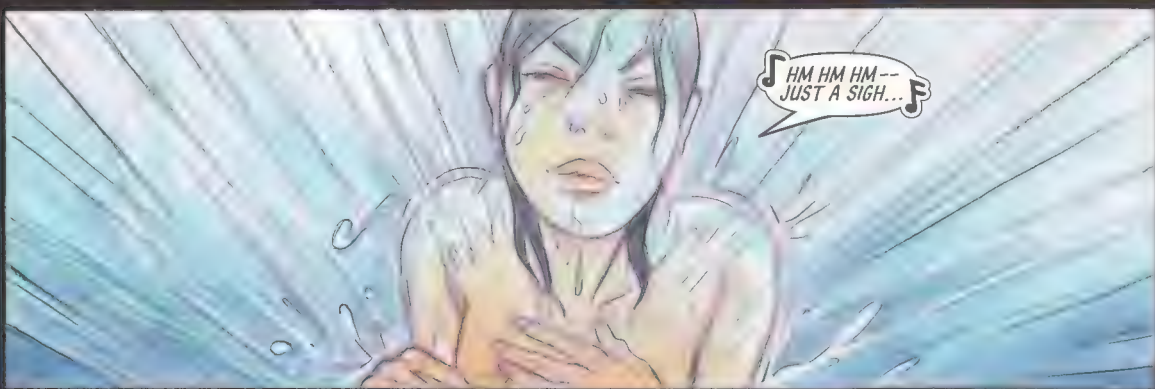
MY
GRANDFATHER
DIED FOR ME!

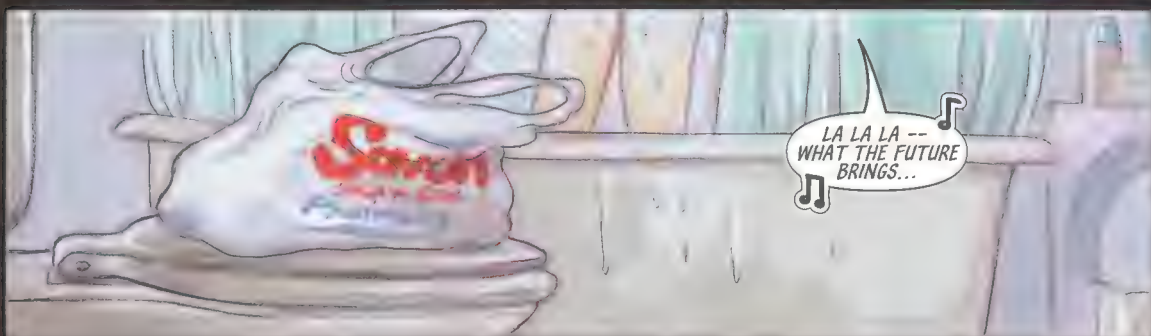
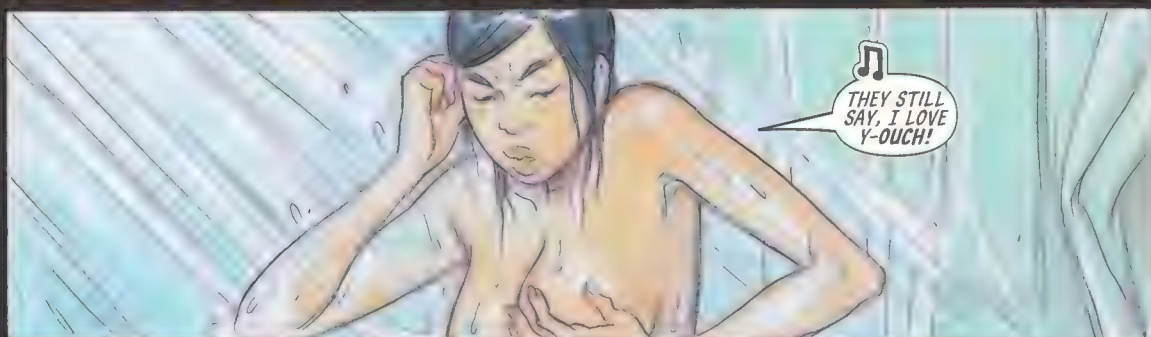
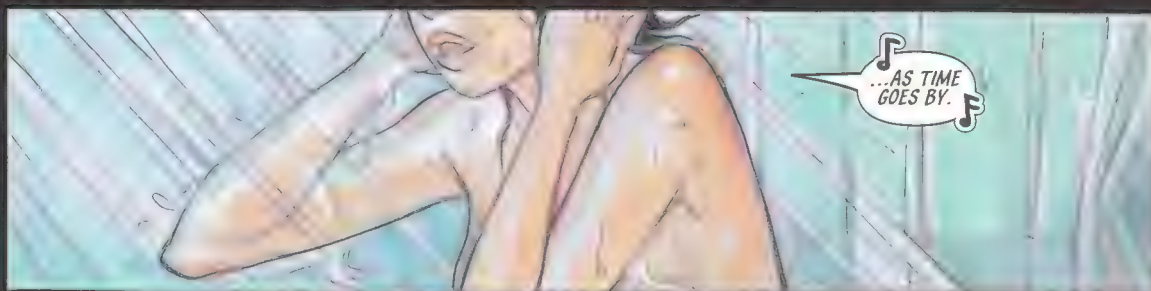


IF I'D KNOWN
I'D GIVEN BIRTH TO
A HARLOT LIKE YOU,
I'D HAVE BEEN
HAPPY TO DIE
WITH HIM..



MAMA...





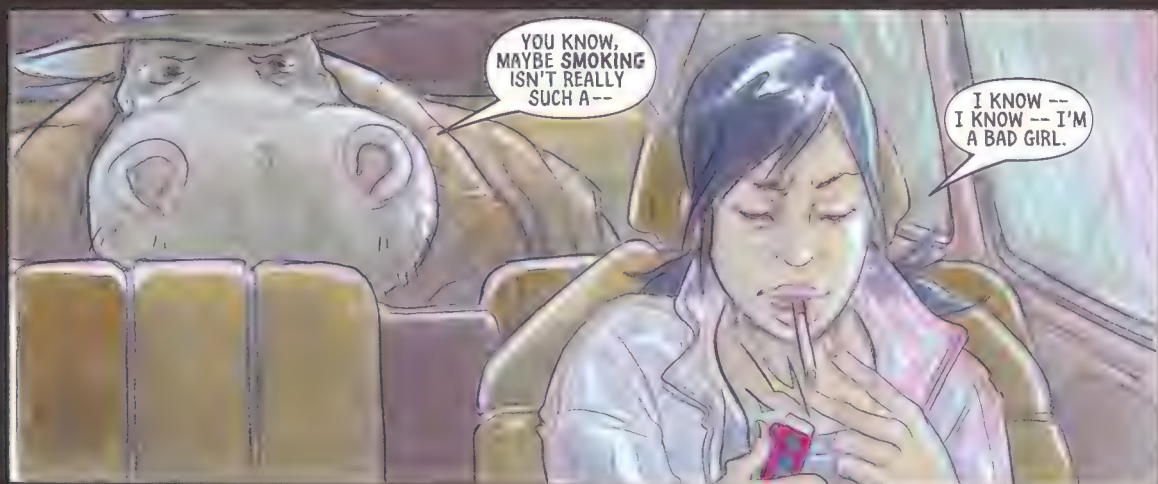




OH,
MIKI...

YOU
IDIOT.





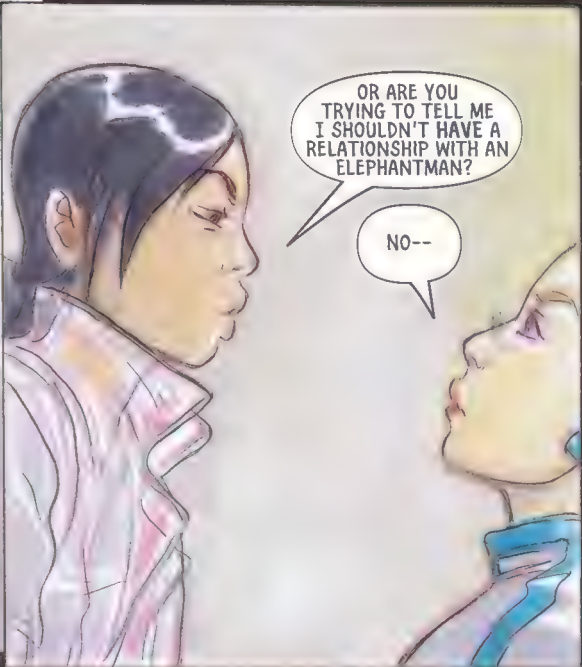




WHAT
DO YOU MEAN
BY THAT?

YOU THINK
I'M NOT GOOD
ENOUGH FOR
HIM?

NO--



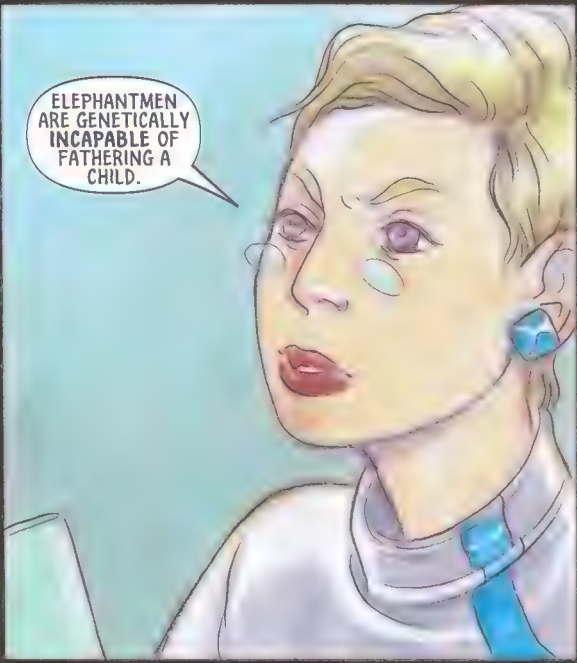
OR ARE YOU
TRYING TO TELL ME
I SHOULDN'T HAVE A
RELATIONSHIP WITH AN
ELEPHANTMAN?

NO--



THAT'S--THAT'S
SPECIESISM, THAT'S
WHAT THAT IS!

NO, IT'S
COMMON
SENSE...

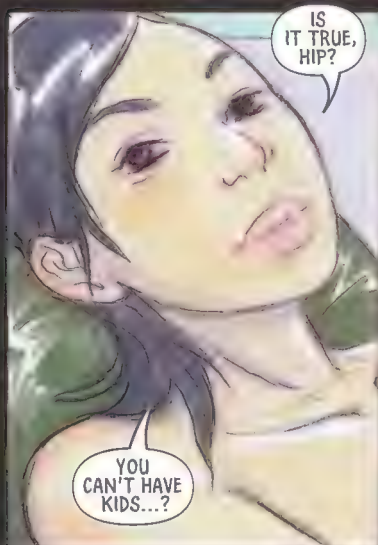


ELEPHANTMEN
ARE GENETICALLY
INCAPABLE OF
FATHERING A
CHILD.



OH.

REALLY?



DID YOU KNOW
THAT THEY REVERED
THE HIPPO IN
ANCIENT EGYPT,
HIP?

SUTEKH...
THE EGYPTIAN GOD OF
DARKNESS WAS LOCKED
IN AN ETERNAL STRUGGLE
WITH HIS HALF BROTHER,
HORUS... GOD OF
LIGHT.

SUTEKH
HAD KILLED THEIR
FATHER, OSIRIS, AND
HORUS WANTED
REVENGE.

"THE HIPPO -- WHICH LIVED IN THE NILE IN
THOSE DAYS -- WAS REGARDED AS THE FIERCEST
OF BEASTS, SO SUTEKH TOOK THE FORM OF A RED
HIPPOPOTAMUS AND SUMMONED MIGHTY STORMS
TO DESTROY A BLUE HIPPOPOTAMIME HORUS.

"GET THIS -- IN ORDER TO
PROVE THEIR SUPERIORITY
OVER ONE ANOTHER, THEY
SOUGHT TO... IMPREGNATE
ONE ANOTHER... HOW
MACHO IS THAT?

"EGYPTIANS FRIGHTENED EACH OTHER WITH THESE
STORIES OF WARRING GODS ASSUMING THE FORM
OF HIPPOS, BECAUSE THEY ALL KNEW THAT OF
ALL THE ANIMALS OF AFRICA, THE HIPPO WAS
THE MOST LIKELY TO KILL YOU.

"HORUS AND SUTEKH WERE
JUST REPRESENTATIONS OF
TYPICAL ALPHA MALE
BEHAVIOR AMONGST MALES
SEEKING TO LEAD THE HERD...

"AND ANYWAY, ALL THE CREATURES THAT LIVED IN
THE NILE WERE REGARDED AS GODS -- *GODDESSES!* --
OF FERTILITY... CROCODILES TOO. ANY LITTLE GUY
THAT COULD SWIM, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...

"THEY STARTED TO REALIZE THAT HIPPO ATTACKS WEREN'T THE CHAOTIC ACTS OF SUTEKH OR AGGRESSIVE MALES...

"MORE
LIKELY IT WAS THE
OVER-PROTECTIVENESS OF
CONCERNED MOTHERS...
AND LET ME TELL YOU,
I KNOW ABOUT
OVER-PROTECTIVE
MOTHERS..."

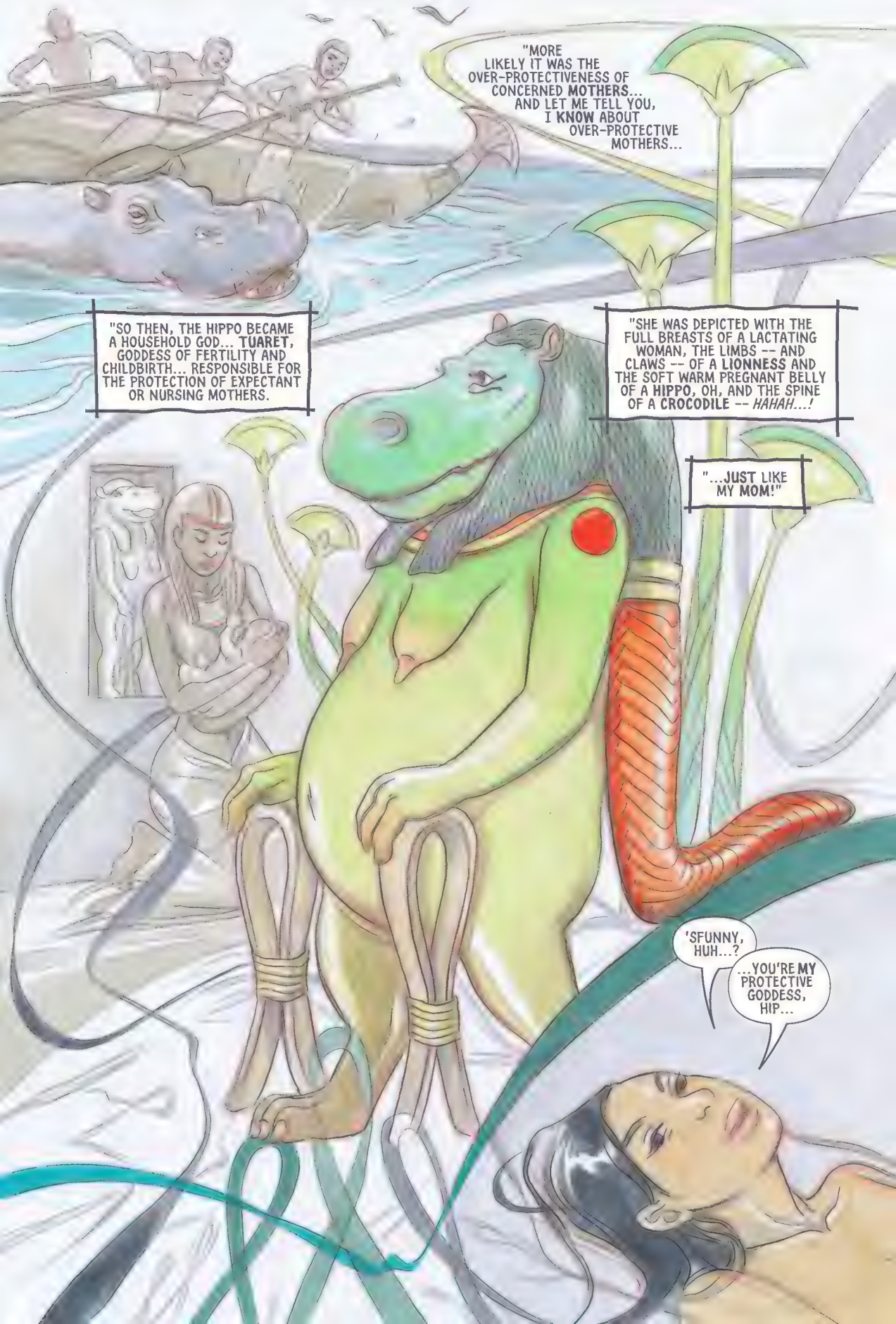
"SO THEN, THE HIPPO BECAME
A HOUSEHOLD GOD... TUARET,
GODDESS OF FERTILITY AND
CHILDBIRTH... RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE PROTECTION OF EXPECTANT
OR NURSING MOTHERS."

"SHE WAS DEPICTED WITH THE
FULL BREASTS OF A LACTATING
WOMAN, THE LIMBS -- AND
CLAWS -- OF A LIONNESS AND
THE SOFT WARM PREGNANT BELLY
OF A HIPPO, OH, AND THE SPINE
OF A CROCODILE -- HAHAH...!"

"...JUST LIKE
MY MOM!"

'SFUNNY,
HUH...?

...YOU'RE MY
PROTECTIVE
GODDESS,
HIP...





ARE
YOU SAYING
I'M DEVELOPING
MAN-BREASTS...?
MOOBS?!



HAH
Y'KNOW, THERE'S
A CLINIC WHERE
YOU CAN GET
THAT TAKEN CARE
OF TOO...

HEY...
THANKS FOR
BEING HERE...
PLEASE DON'T
THINK...



MIKI...
I KNOW YOU'VE HAD
A TRYING COUPLE
OF WEEKS...

ALL THOSE
PEOPLE THAT DIED
ON THE BEACH...
TUSK...

I KNOW YOU
MIGHT BE AFRAID
ABOUT WHETHER
OR NOT YOU'RE
HOSTING THE FCN
VIRUS.*

BUT, MIKI...
YOU HAVE A FUTURE...
DON'T GET INTO THIS
SITUATION AGAIN...

YOU HAVE
TO REMEMBER
ALL OF THIS...

*Miki was exposed to the virus in ELEPHANTMEN #14

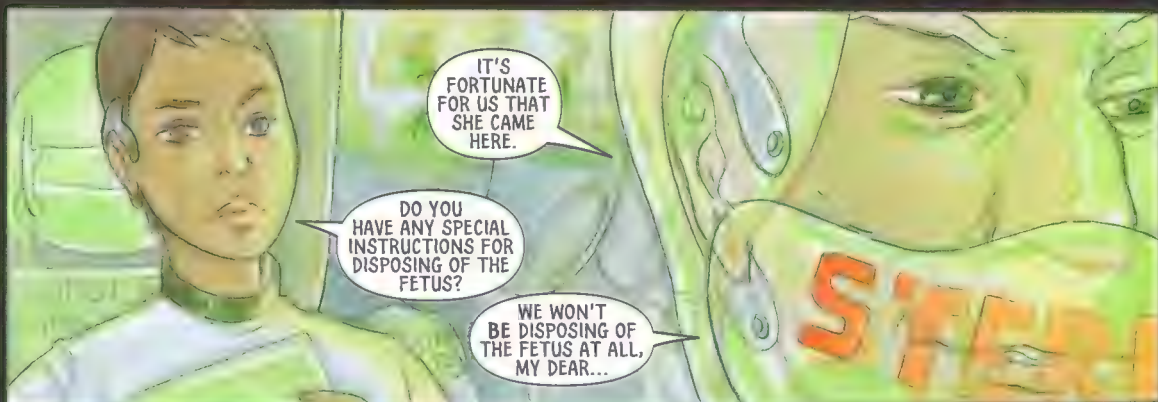


YEAH,
I KNOW...

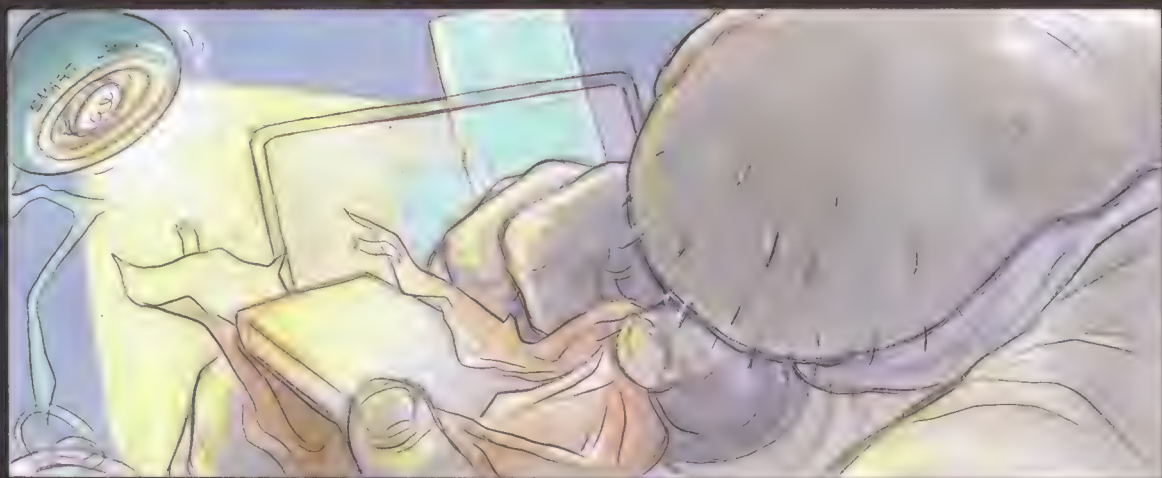
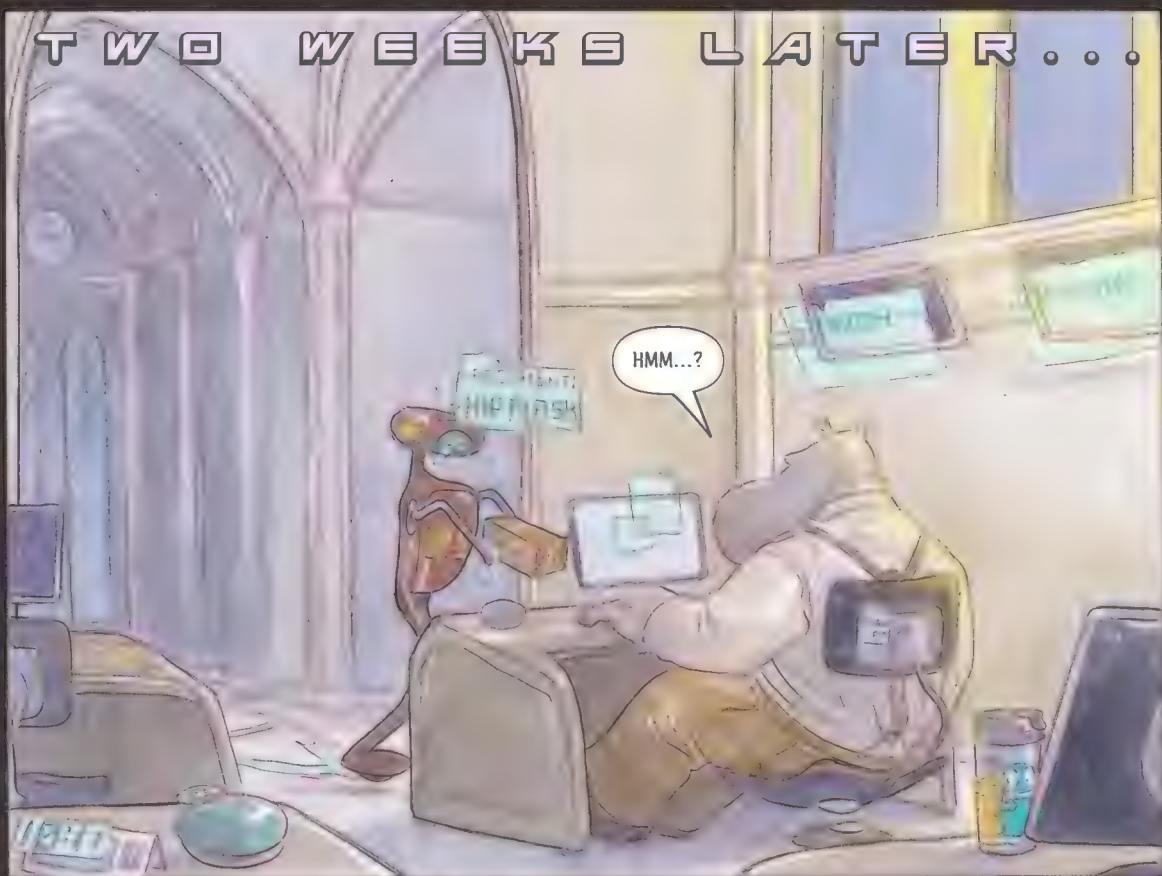
SOMETIMES
A KISS IS
NOT JUST A
KISS...

BUT IN A
MONTH OR TWO,
IT'LL ALL BE
FORGOTTEN,
EH?

THE
SAME OLD
STORY...



TWO WEEKS LATER...





you're the
best, Hip.
MIKI DOO





DANGEROUS LIAISONS FOUR of 8

ELEPHANTMEN

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Michael
 2009

Daddy's Little Girl



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DANGEROUS LIAISONS FOUR of 8

ELEPHANTMEN™

THE STORY OF
SAHARA

BY STARKINGS &
CHURCHLAND



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S A H A R A

"EVEN THE
DARKNESS
BECOMES
BRIGHT
WHEN A
LANTERN
IS LIT,
AND EVEN
MUDDY
WATER
BECOMES
CLEAR WHEN
THE MOON
SHINES
ON IT."

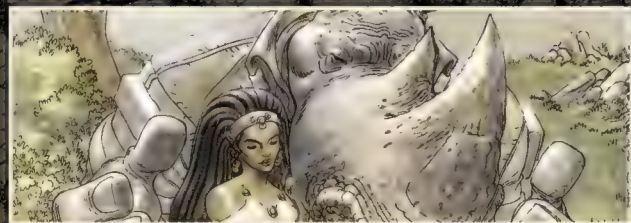
NICHIREN
DAISHONIN



She is the daughter of African crimelord JOSHUA SERENGHETI and his mistress, KALA. Many years after Serengheti sold Kala to MAPPO as breeding stock for production of Elephantmen...



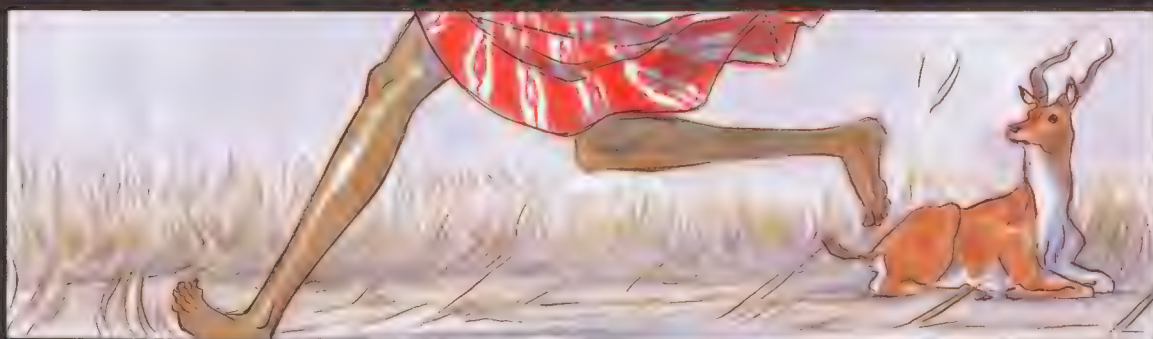
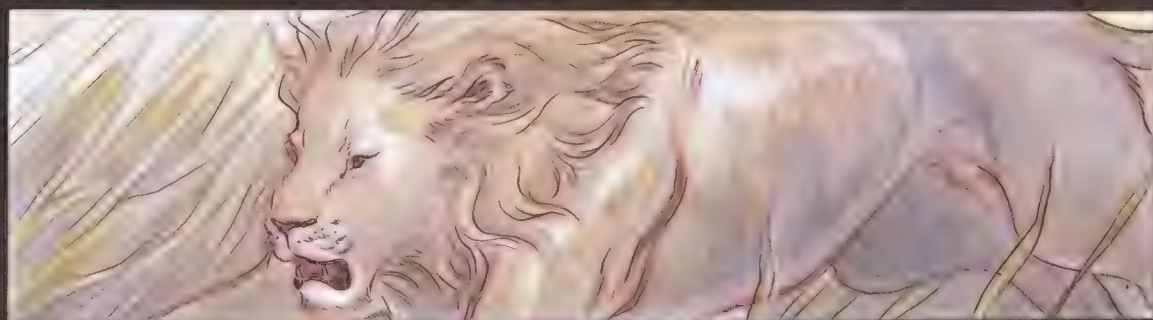
...Sahara became involved in the UN's Elephantmen rehabilitation program, where she met and fell in love with OBADIAH HORN, now the most celebrated Elephantman of all.

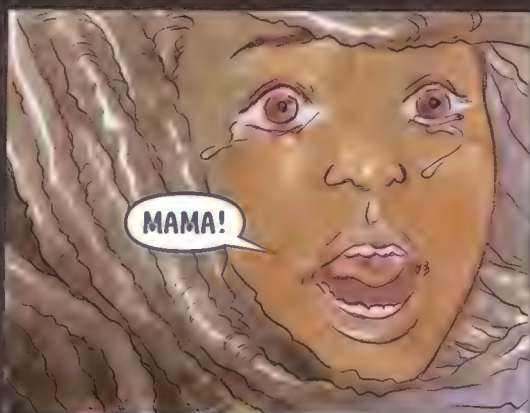
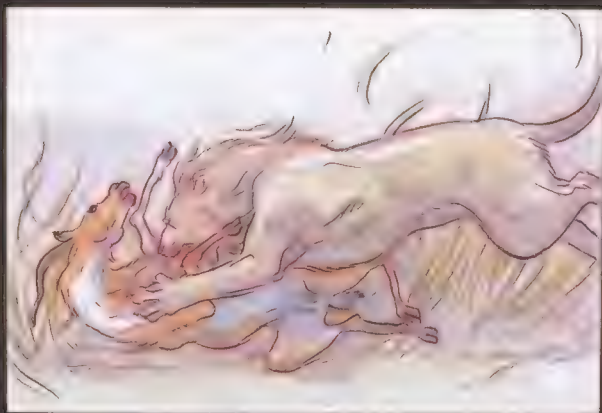


Injured in a car crash, Horn and Sahara were taken to the transgenics hospital for treatment. When Serengheti, now based in Los Angeles, heard of their location, he led an armed gang to the hospital to kill Horn and take Sahara back...









"SO, EITHER WAY,
WHEN THE SUN RISES
IN THE MORNING..."



"YOU HAD BETTER
BE RUNNING."



SAHARA.

DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL

By
Richard
Starkings &
Marian
Churchland

FATHER.

LOS ANGELES • 2259

MAPP0.

THEY TOOK AWAY
HER MOTHER.

THEY TOOK AWAY
ALL THE WOMEN.*

NORTH AFRICA • 2224

*See HIP FLASK, CONCRETE JUNGLE and ELEPHANTMEN #6

THEY KILLED HER
GRANDFATHER.

THEY KILLED ANY MAN THAT
TRIED TO STOP THEM OR
DIDN'T HIDE FROM THEM.

AND THEN THEY BURNED
HER VILLAGE.



THOSE THAT SURVIVED GATHERED
TOGETHER WHAT FEW BELONGINGS
THEY COULD FIND AND LEFT IN
SEARCH OF FOOD AND SHELTER.



NOT MANY MADE IT TO
THE REFUGEE CAMPS.





THOSE THAT DID,
FOUND SHELTER...

...MEDICAL TREATMENT...



AND SOME...

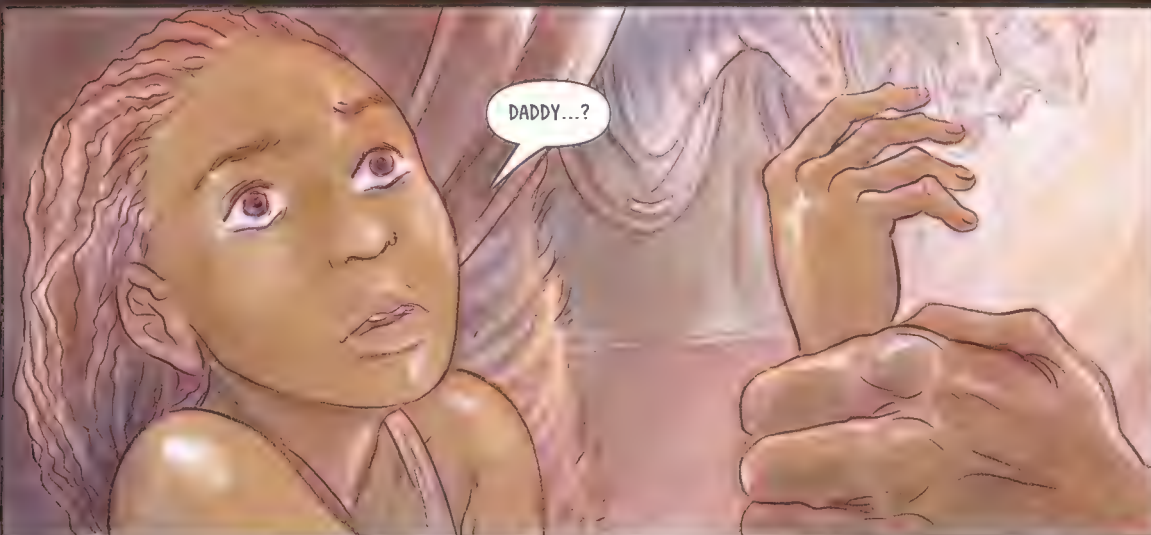
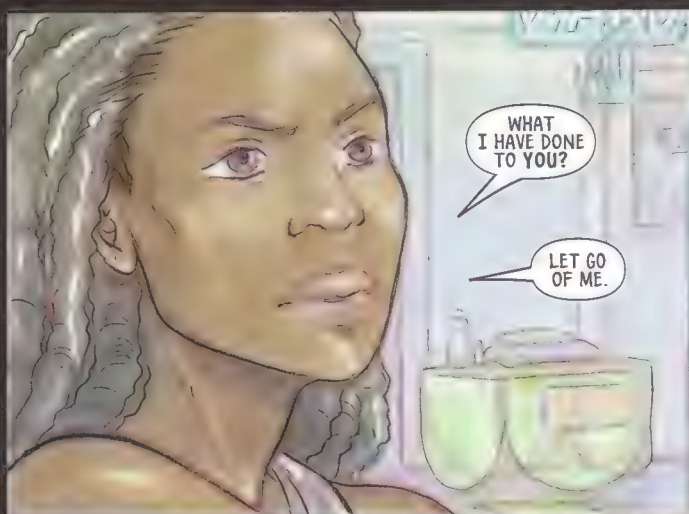
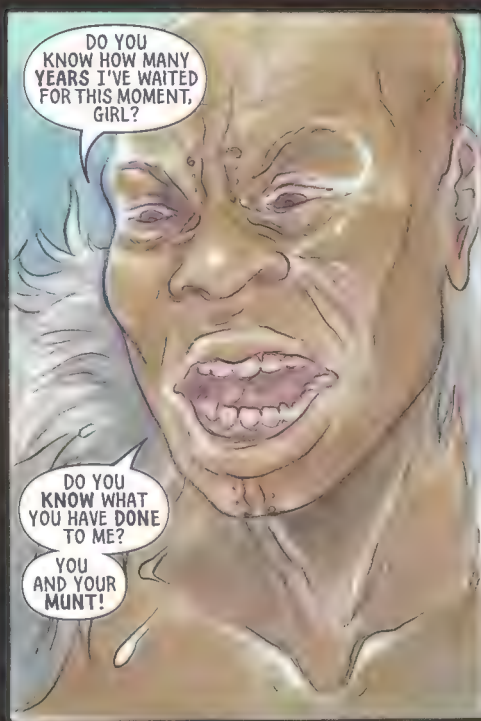
...SOME WERE
REUNITED WITH
RELATIVES.

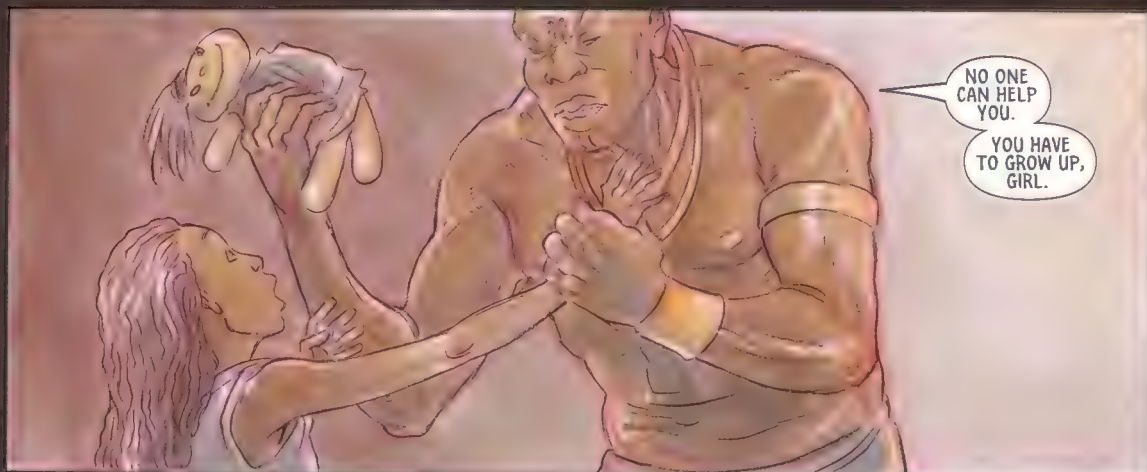


SAHARA?



DADDY...?





NO ONE
CAN HELP
YOU.

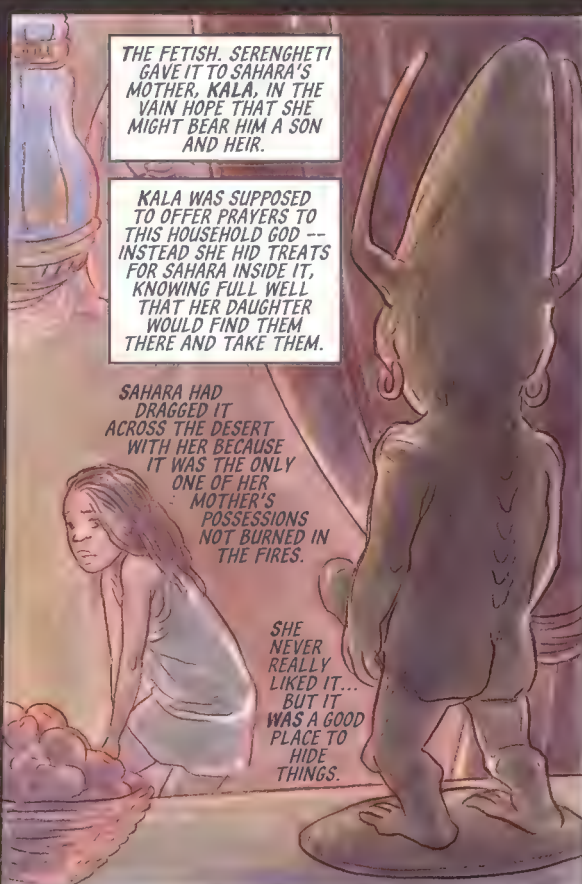
YOU HAVE
TO GROW UP,
GIRL.



YOUR
CHILDHOOD
IS OVER.



YOU WILL BE
WORKING FOR
ME NOW.

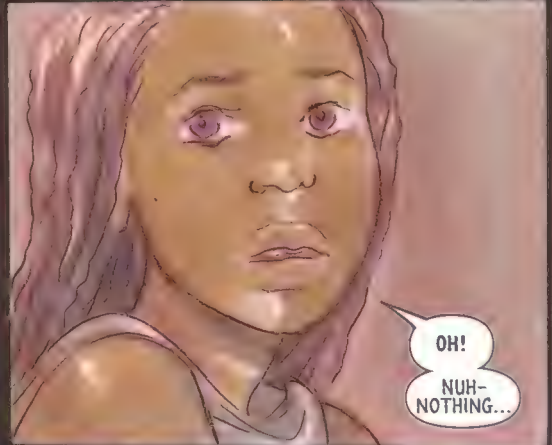
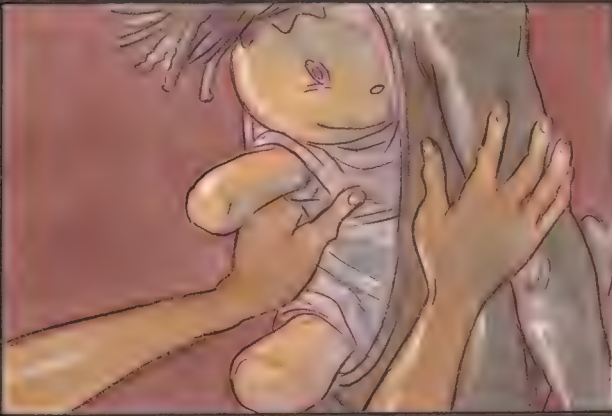
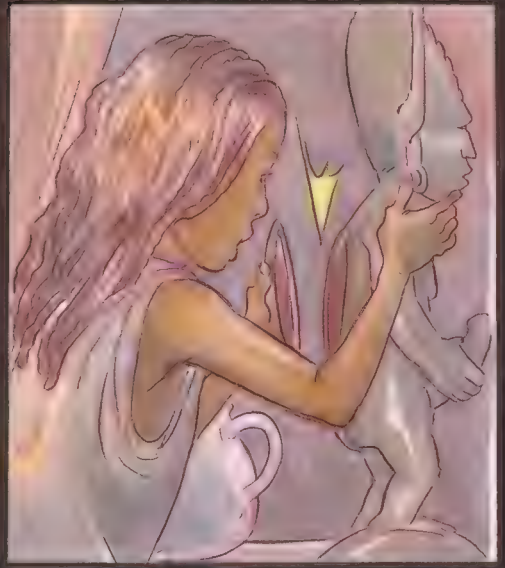
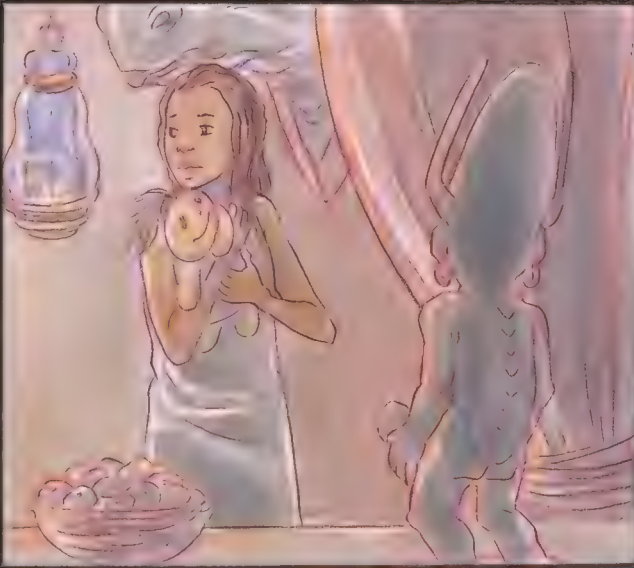


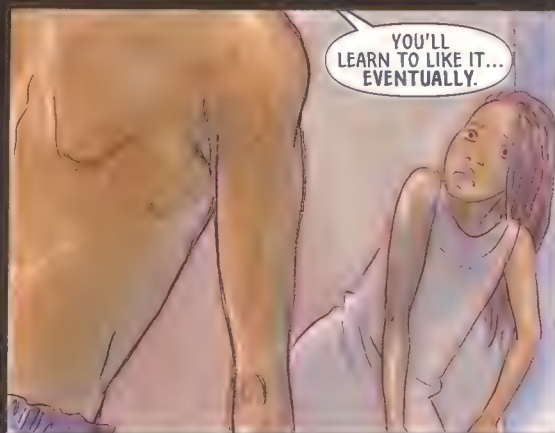
THE FETISH. SERENGHETI
GAVE IT TO SAHARA'S
MOTHER, KALA, IN THE
VAIN HOPE THAT SHE
MIGHT BEAR HIM A SON
AND HEIR.

KALA WAS SUPPOSED
TO OFFER PRAYERS TO
THIS HOUSEHOLD GOD --
INSTEAD SHE HID TREATS
FOR SAHARA INSIDE IT,
KNOWING FULL WELL
THAT HER DAUGHTER
WOULD FIND THEM
THERE AND TAKE THEM.

SAHARA HAD
DRAGGED IT
ACROSS THE DESERT
WITH HER BECAUSE
IT WAS THE ONLY
ONE OF HER
MOTHER'S
POSSESSIONS
NOT BURNED IN
THE FIRES.

SHE
NEVER
REALLY
LIKED IT...
BUT IT
WAS A GOOD
PLACE TO
HIDE
THINGS.



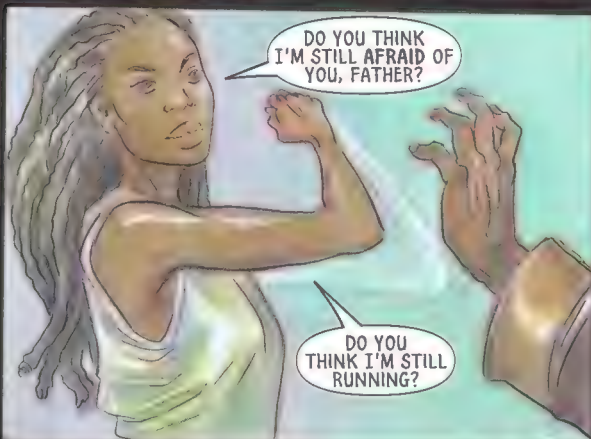


"SHE WON'T HEAR YOU..."



DO YOU THINK
I'M STILL AFRAID OF
YOU, FATHER?

DO YOU
THINK I'M STILL
RUNNING?



YOU ARE
SO MUCH
LIKE YOUR
MOTHER.

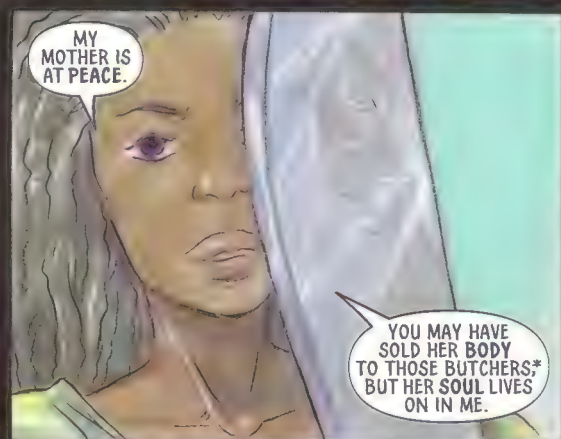


SHE TOO
THOUGHT SHE
HAD OVERCOME
FEAR.

BUT MAPPO
TAUGHT HER
THAT SHE WAS
WRONG.

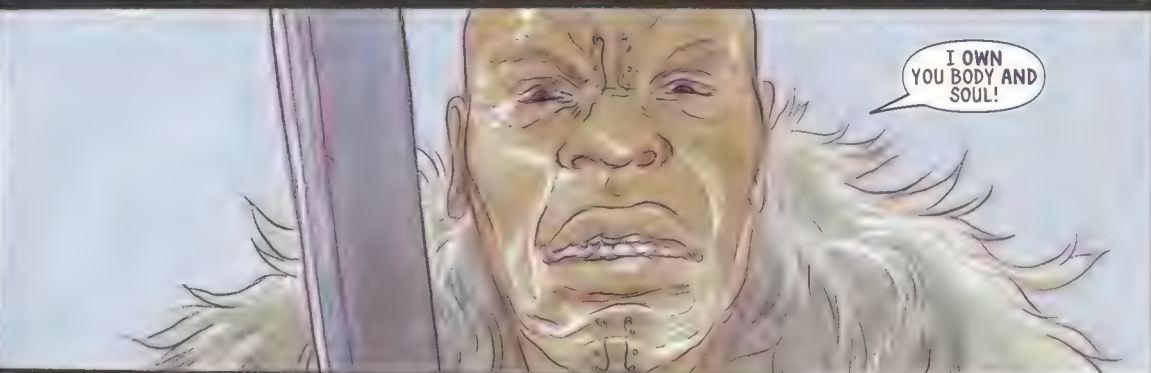


MY
MOTHER IS
AT PEACE.

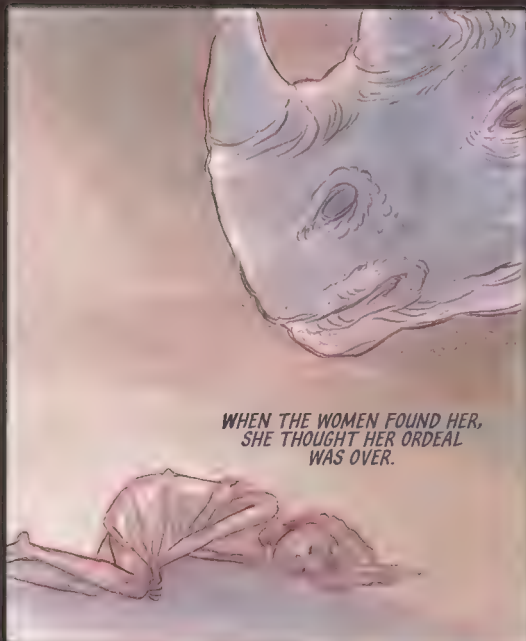


YOU MAY HAVE
SOLD HER BODY
TO THOSE BUTCHERS,*
BUT HER SOUL LIVES
ON IN ME.

I OWN
YOU BODY AND
SOUL!







WHEN THE WOMEN FOUND HER,
SHE THOUGHT HER ORDEAL
WAS OVER.



THEIR FACES SEEMED KIND,
AS IF THEY UNDERSTOOD.
AS IF THEY COULD
SAVE HER.



THEY SPOKE TO HER WITH
GENTLE REASSURING WORDS.
THEIR TOUCH SOOTHED HER.



THEY BATHED HER
AND SANG SONGS
THAT CALMED HER.

WHEN THEY DRESSED
HER IN LINEN AND
PREPARED FRUIT FOR
HER, SHE STARTED TO WONDER IF
HER EXPERIENCES WERE ALL JUST
SOME KIND OF **BAD DREAM...**



SHE WONDERED IF
PERHAPS THEY WERE
PREPARING HER
FOR THE RETURN OF
HER MOTHER.



BUT THERE
WAS SOMETHING
NOT RIGHT.



THESE WERE NOT
WOMEN SHE
KNEW.



WHY WERE THEY
SINGING?



WHY WERE THEY
CLAPPING?



WHERE WERE THEY
TAKING HER...?



THIS WAS NO
DREAM.

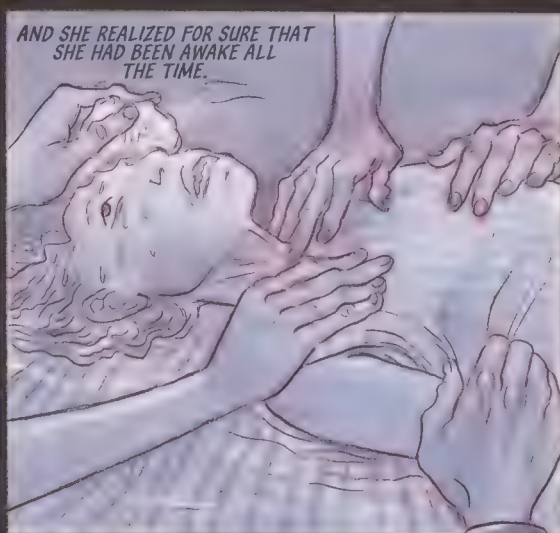


THIS WAS A NIGHTMARE THAT
WAS NEVER GOING TO END.



THEY CUT
HER.

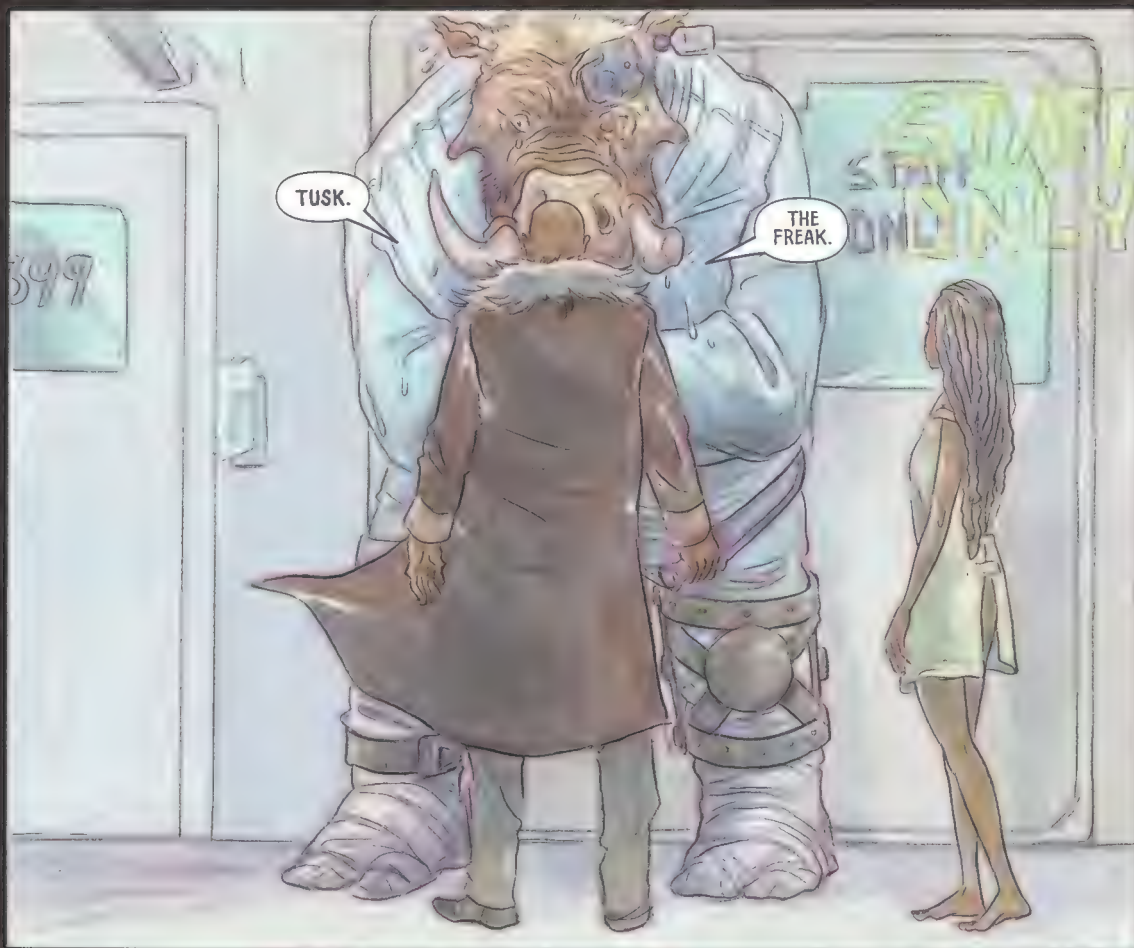
THEY
CIRCUMCIZED
HER.



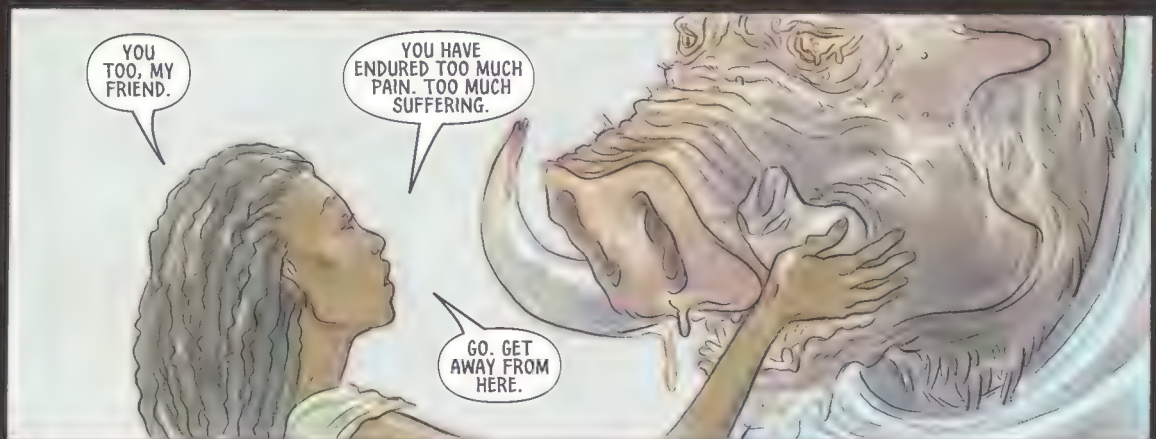
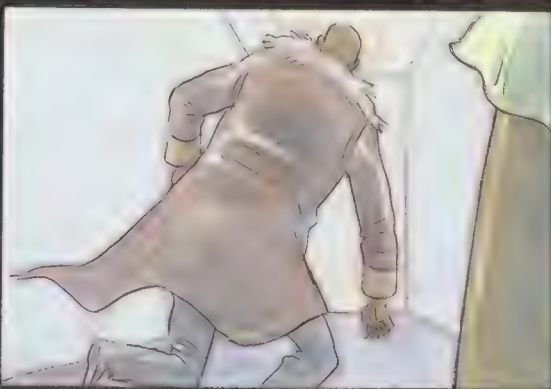
AND SHE REALIZED FOR SURE THAT
SHE HAD BEEN AWAKE ALL
THE TIME.

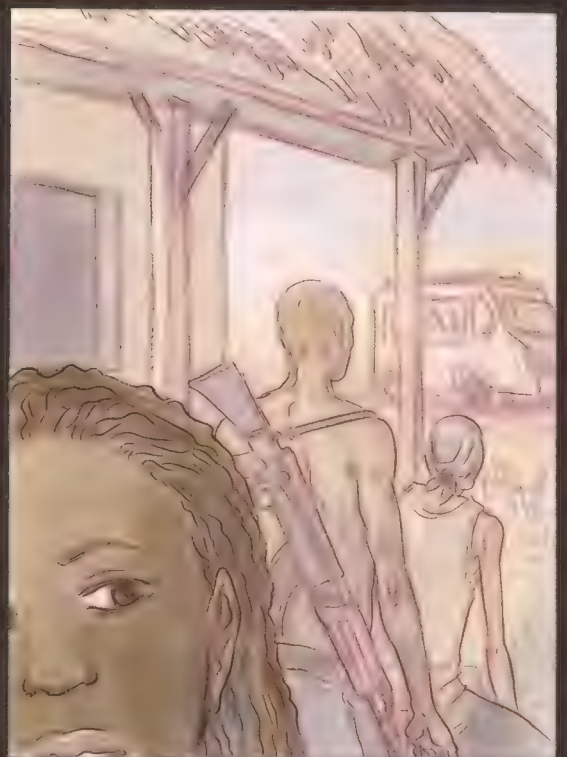
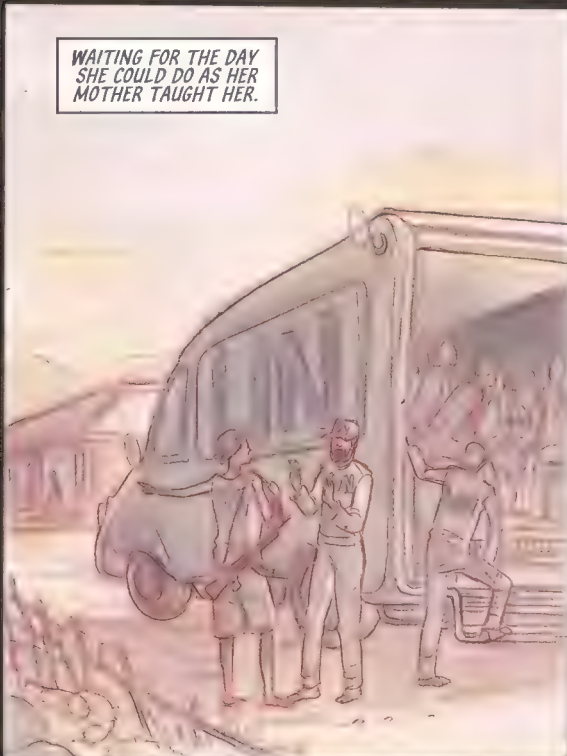


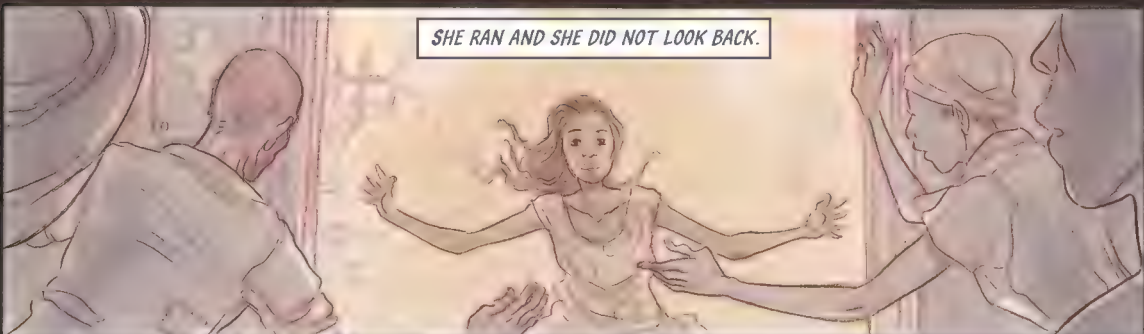
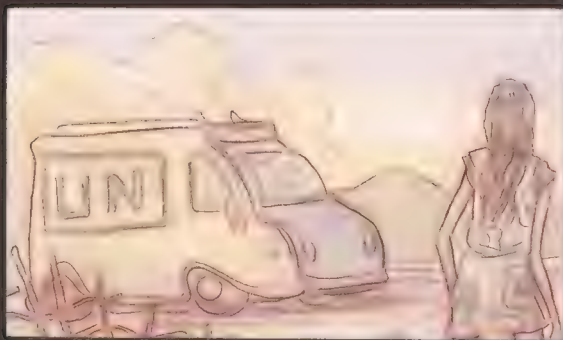
MAMAAAAAAA!







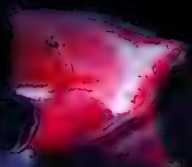




AND THE NIGHTMARE ENDED.

SAHARA.





DANGEROUS LIAISONS FILE #1

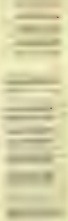
HELLBOY & THE ELEPHANT MEN



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ELEPHANTMEN



Richard Starkings • Marian Churchland • T.G. Roswell

Mystery Girl



Churchland

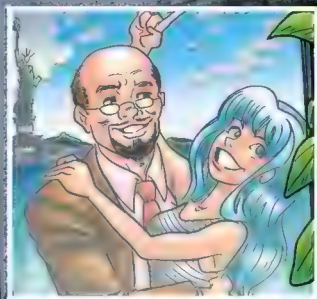
W A N I T Y

"A HUMAN BEING
IS A PART OF THE
WHOLE CALLED BY
US UNIVERSE,
A PART LIMITED IN
TIME AND SPACE.
HE EXPERIENCES
HIMSELF, HIS
THOUGHTS AND
FEELINGS AS
SOMETHING
SEPARATED FROM
THE REST,
A KIND OF OPTICAL
DELUSION OF HIS
CONSCIOUSNESS.

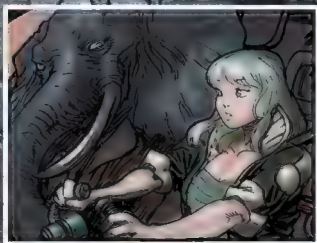
THIS DELUSION
IS A KIND OF
PRISON FOR US,
RESTRICTING US
TO OUR PERSONAL
DESIRES AND TO
AFFECTION FOR
A FEW PERSONS
NEAREST TO US.

OUR TASK MUST BE
TO FREE OURSELVES
FROM THIS PRISON
BY WIDENING
OUR CIRCLE OF
COMPASSION TO
EMBRACE ALL
LIVING CREATURES
AND THE WHOLE
OF NATURE IN ITS
BEAUTY."

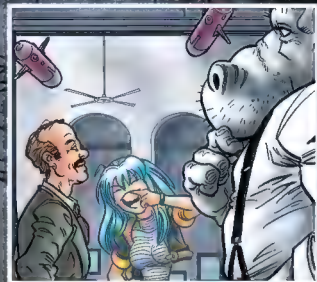
ALBERT EINSTEIN



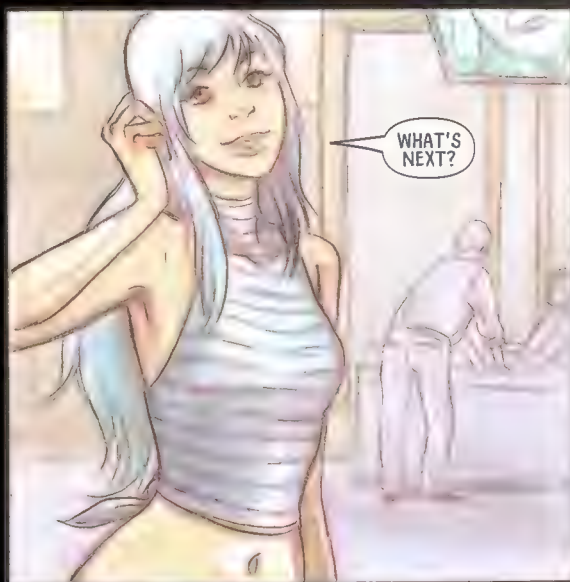
BIANCA ESPINOSA
was the daughter of
PROFESSOR ALAN SCOTT,
a Forensics expert who
disappeared during the
course of a murder
trial.



Placed in a witness
protection program,
Bianca was renamed
Vanity Case, and
given a job at the
Information Agency in
Venice Beach.



There, she was
assigned to assist field
agent **HIERONYMOUS**
"HIP" FLASK...





TV
Tammy and Sally's
DINER

OPEN 24/7

PIZZA

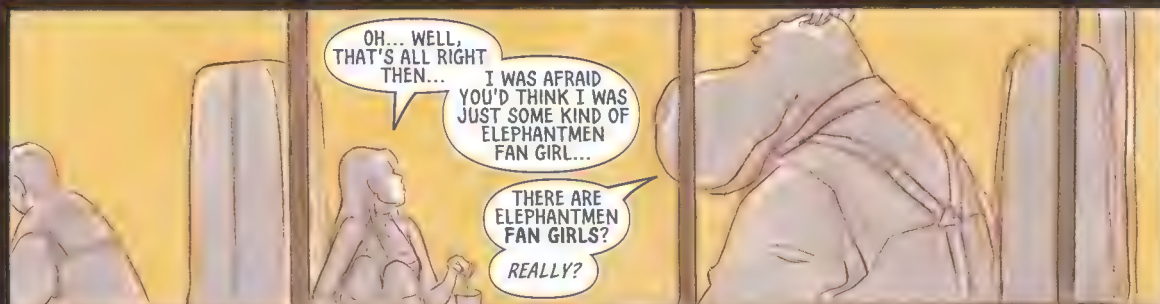
Star Bright

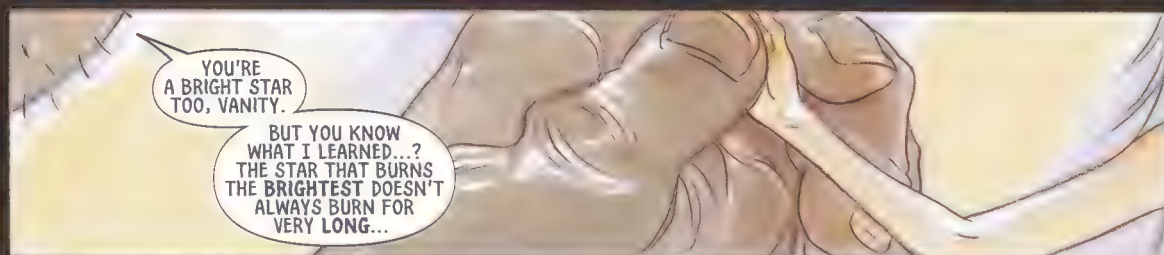
LOOK,
HIP -- THE
EVENING
STAR!

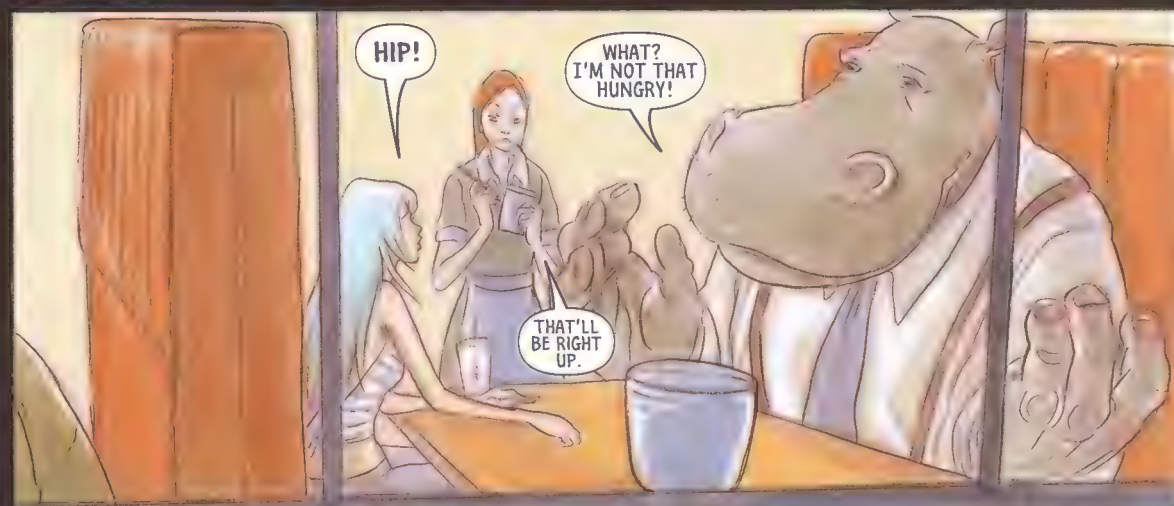














SO WHAT KIND OF AGENCY ASSIGNMENT INCLUDES A DATE IN NOWHERE CITY?



Thanks!

I'M HERE TO SEE TAMMY LAFFETER, ONE OF THE OWNERS.



SHE WAS THE ONLY FRIEND OF THE DECEASED WHO TURNED UP AT THE FUNERAL OF EVERETT DIXON LAST WEEK.

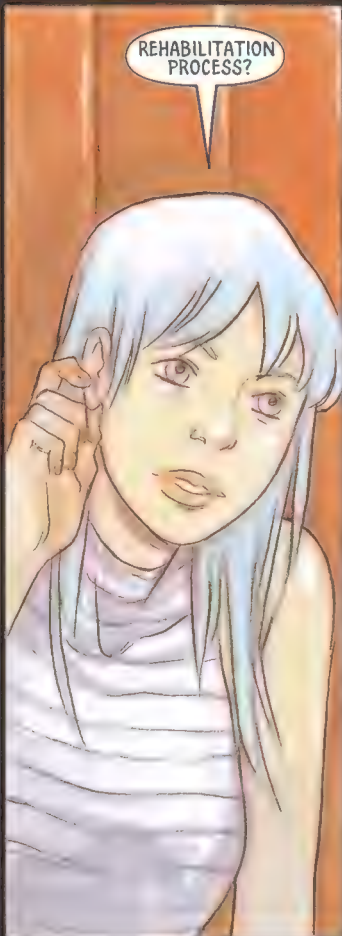


YOU MEAN THAT GUY WHO DIED IN THE TRUCK YOU, UH, STOPPED...?

BUT THAT WASN'T YOUR FAULT... I SAW THE DTV FOOTAGE, THAT TRUCK ROLLED ALL THE WAY DOWN WILSHIRE WITH HIM DEAD AT THE WHEEL.*



*Tusk's. See ELEPHANTMEN #17



REHABILITATION
PROCESS?



VANITY...
YOU HAVE TO
REMEMBER
THAT--



HEY, WHAT
HAPPENED TO
MY EARRING?







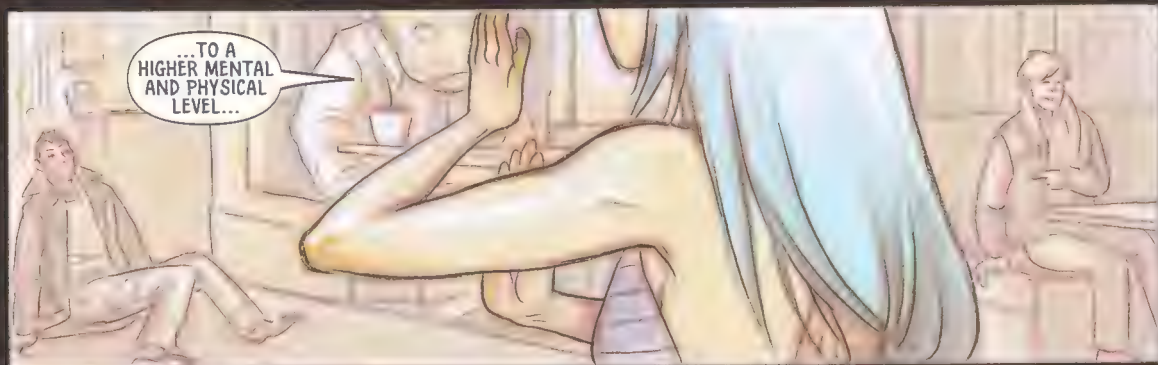


I BELIEVE
THAT THE CONSTANT
PRACTICE OF THE ART
OF WING CHUN...



...WILL
ENABLE ME TO
TRANSCEND...

HUNH?



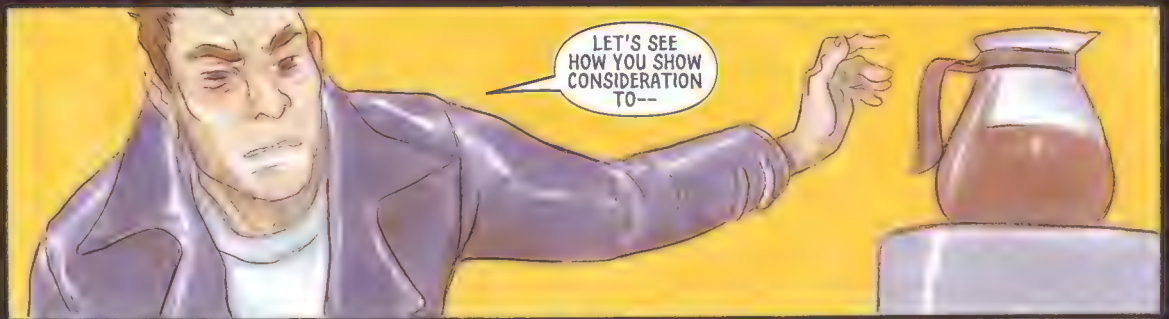
...TO A
HIGHER MENTAL
AND PHYSICAL
LEVEL...

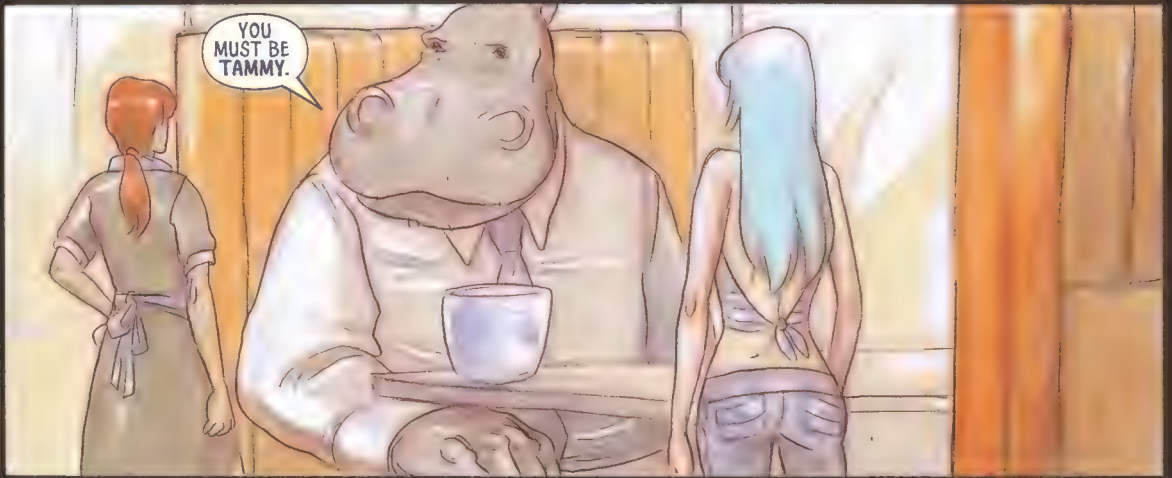


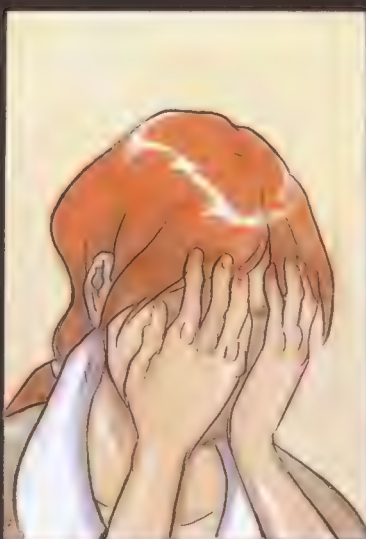
...I WILL SHOW
RESPECT FOR THE ART,
MY SI-FUS, MY SI-HINGS
AND MY SIDAIS...



...I WILL EMPLOY
THE UTMOST TOLERANCE
AND CONSIDERATION WHEN
DEALING WITH PEOPLE IN
MATTERS IN AND OUTSIDE
THE ACADEMY.

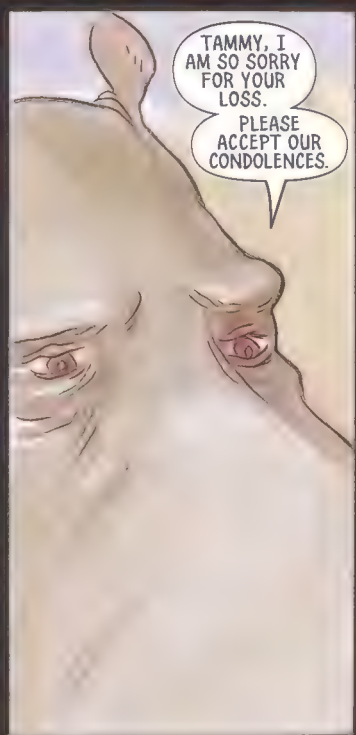
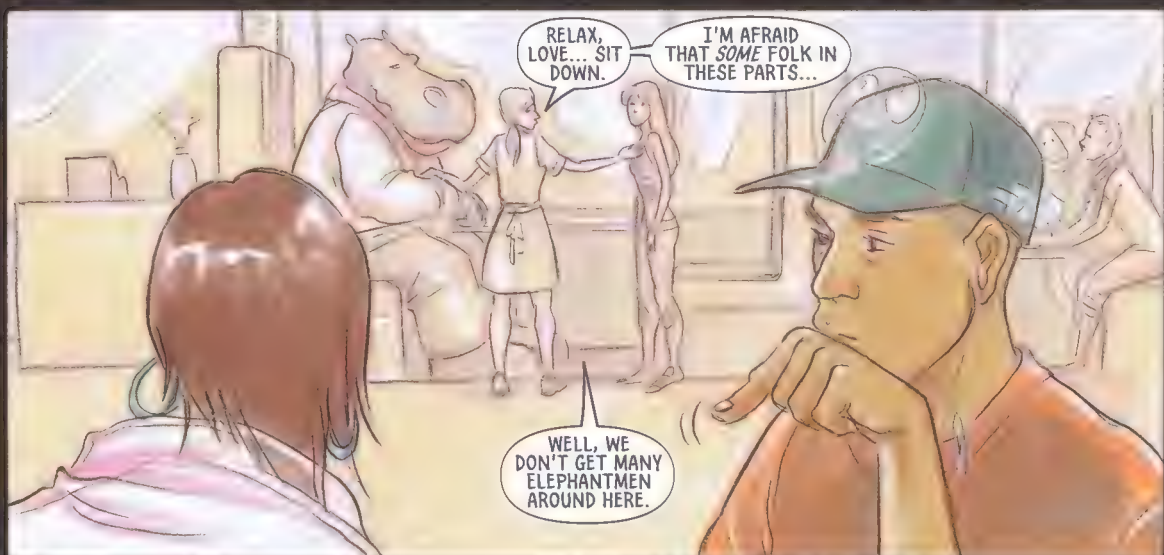
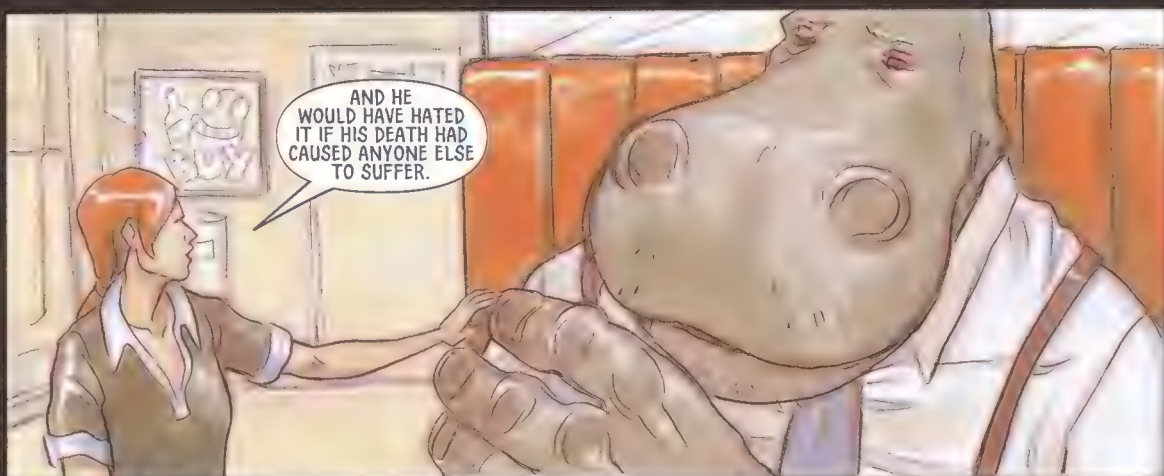


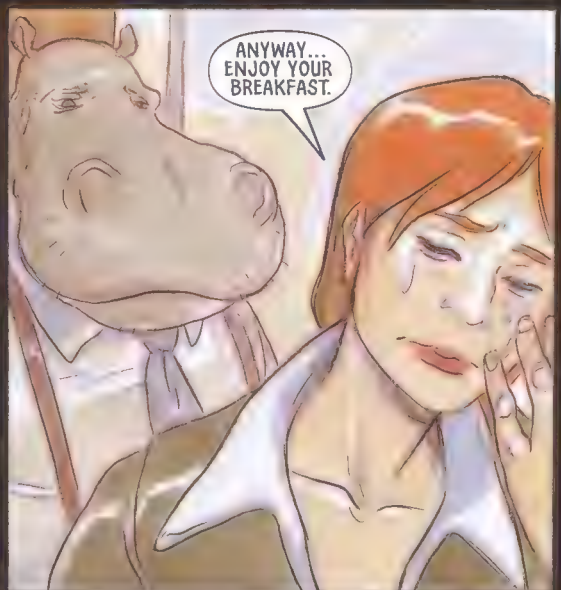
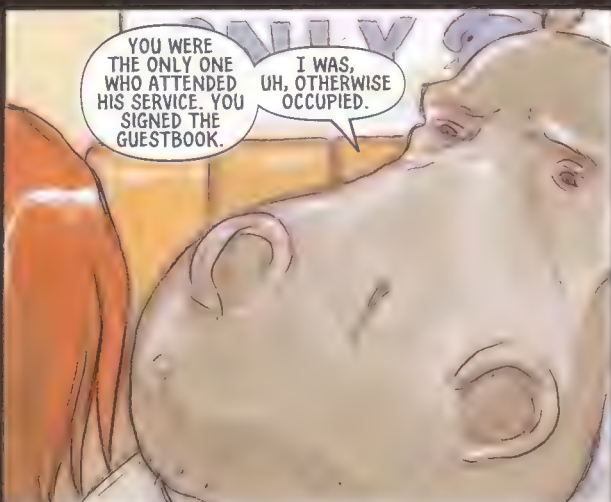


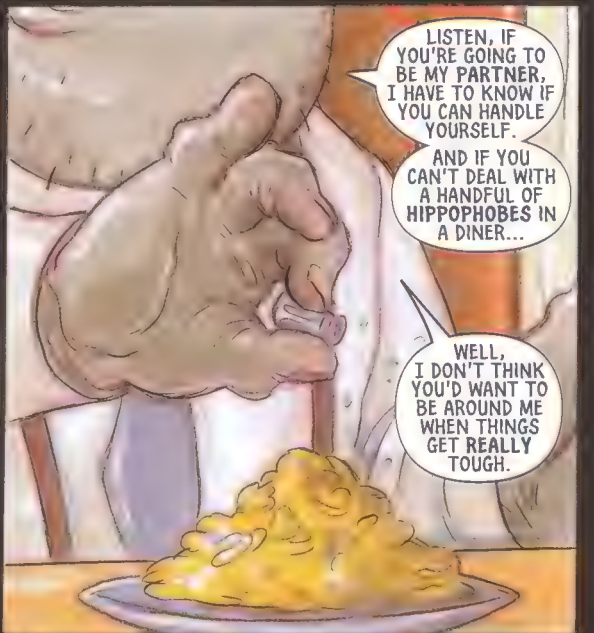


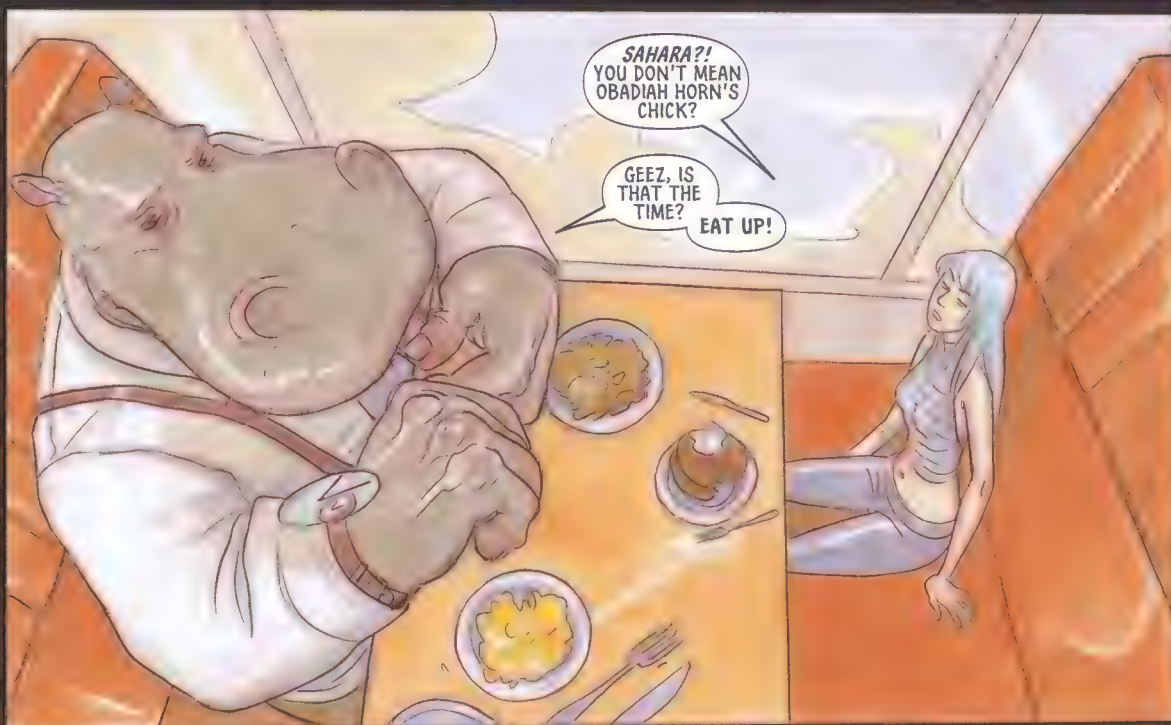
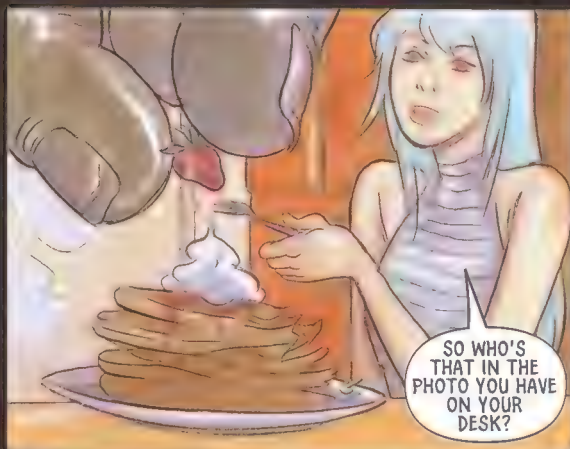
"EVERETT WAS SUCH A GOOD MAN..."

"IT WASN'T HIS FAULT. HIS HEART GAVE OUT, POOR THING..."











HIPPOPOTOCOFFEEMAN ELEPHANTMEN



\$3.50
JUN
2009
#020



The forgotten variant .. because
we forgot to publish it!



SHANNON
WHEELER
2001

ELEPHANTMEN DANGEROUS LIAISONS SIX
#021 \$3.50

KILL
KILL
KILL



Richard
STARKINGS · COOK

ELEPHANTMEN

ELEPHANTMEN



**"THERE
ARE NO
DANGEROUS
WEAPONS;
THERE
ARE ONLY
DANGEROUS
MEN."**

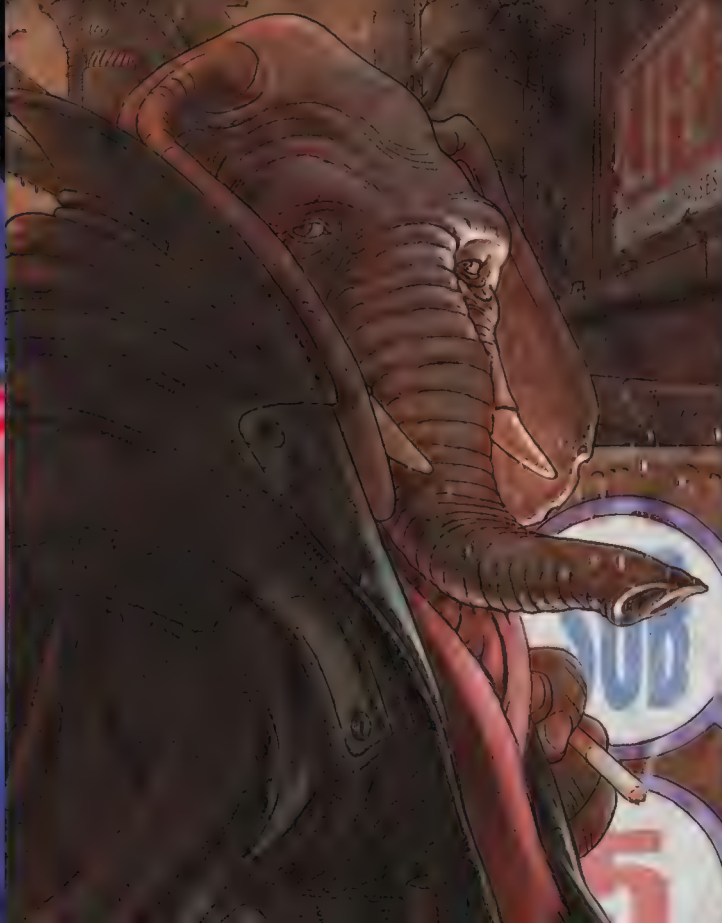
ROBERT A. HEINLIEN

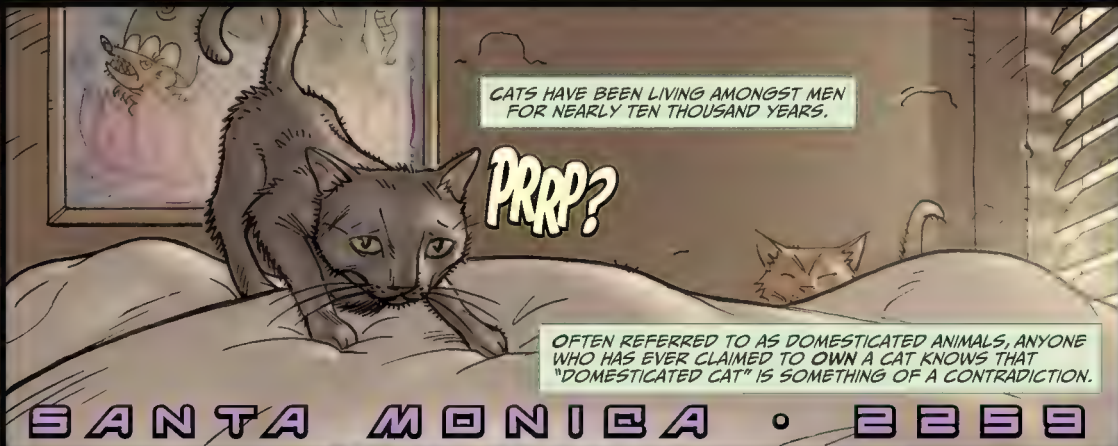
E B O N Y H I D E

Ebony Hide works for the Information Agency in Los Angeles, alongside HIP FLASK, a fellow survivor of the war between Africa and China.



Still haunted by things he did in the war - actions he was forced to question during his rehabilitation - Ebony knows that the fear and suspicion he sees in the eyes of humans he passes on the street is there with good reason.



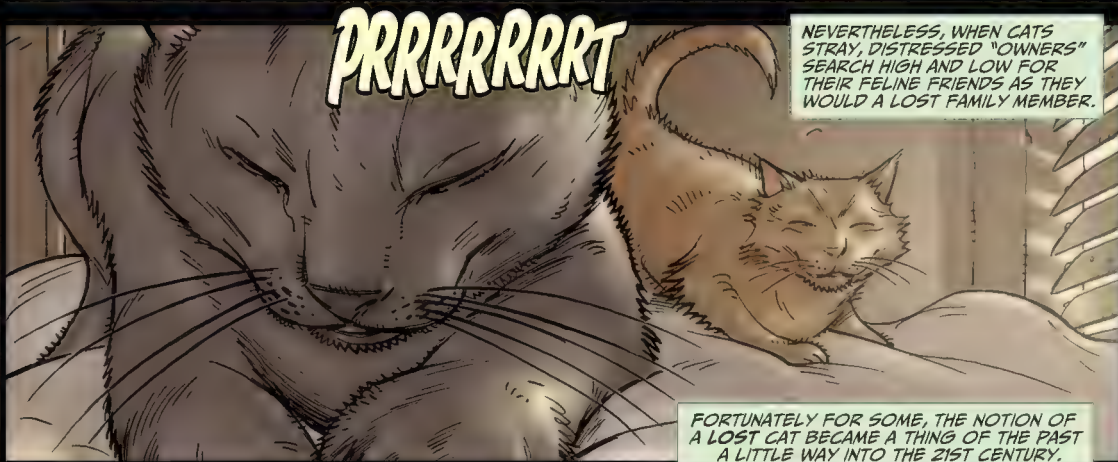


CATS HAVE BEEN LIVING AMONGST MEN FOR NEARLY TEN THOUSAND YEARS.

PRRP?

OFTEN REFERRED TO AS DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, ANYONE WHO HAS EVER CLAIMED TO OWN A CAT KNOWS THAT "DOMESTICATED CAT" IS SOMETHING OF A CONTRADICTION.

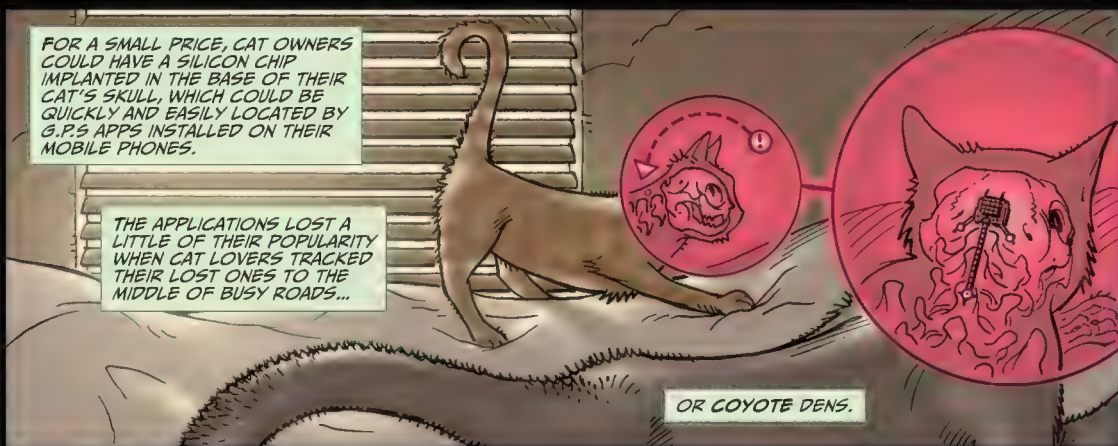
SANTA MONICA • 2259



PRRRRRRRRT

NEVERTHELESS, WHEN CATS STRAY, DISTRESSED "OWNERS" SEARCH HIGH AND LOW FOR THEIR FELINE FRIENDS AS THEY WOULD A LOST FAMILY MEMBER.

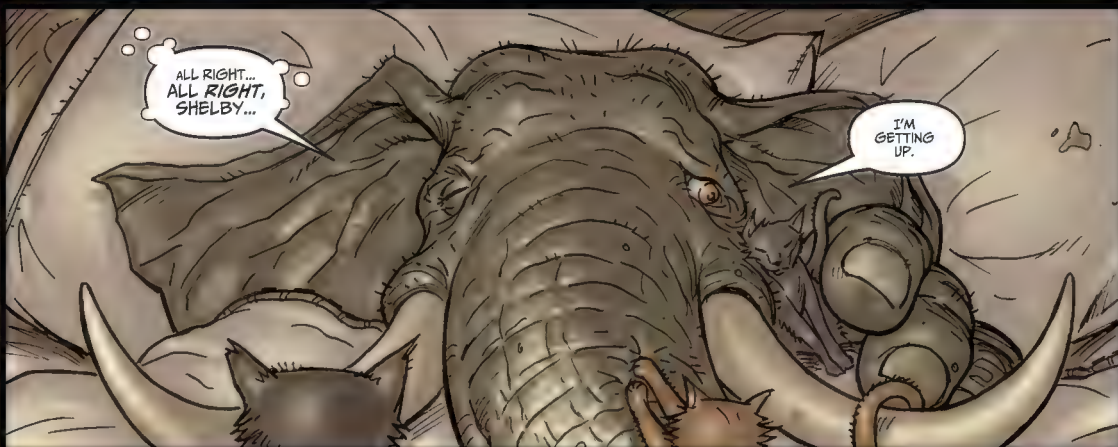
FORTUNATELY FOR SOME, THE NOTION OF A LOST CAT BECAME A THING OF THE PAST A LITTLE WAY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.



FOR A SMALL PRICE, CAT OWNERS COULD HAVE A SILICON CHIP IMPLANTED IN THE BASE OF THEIR CAT'S SKULL, WHICH COULD BE QUICKLY AND EASILY LOCATED BY G.P.S APPS INSTALLED ON THEIR MOBILE PHONES.

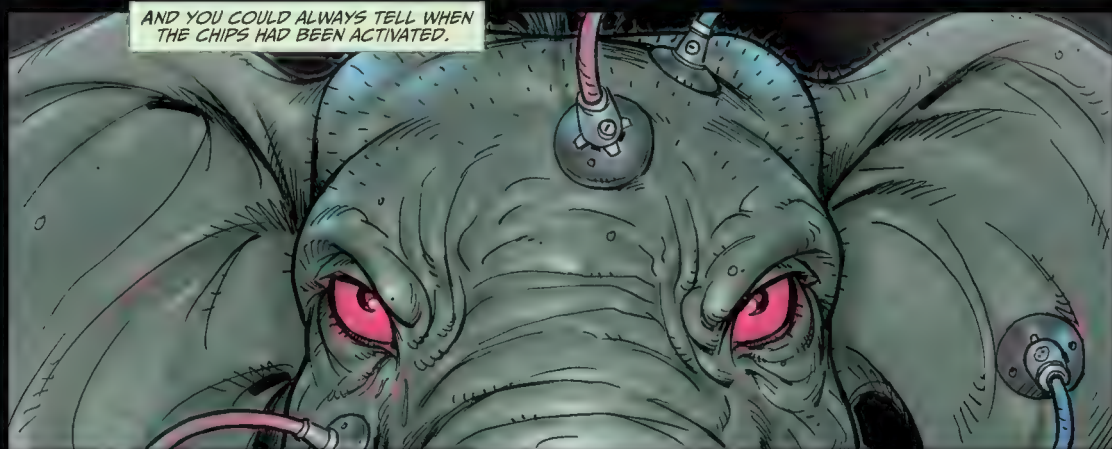
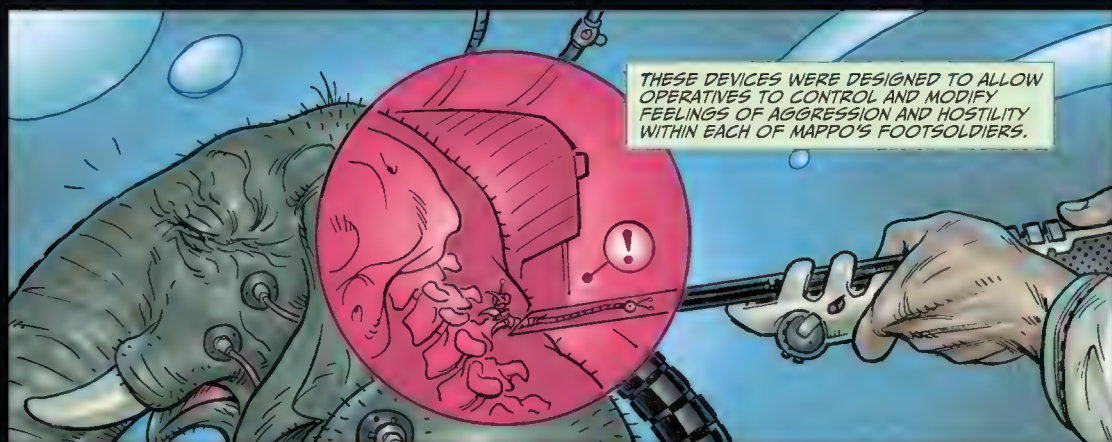
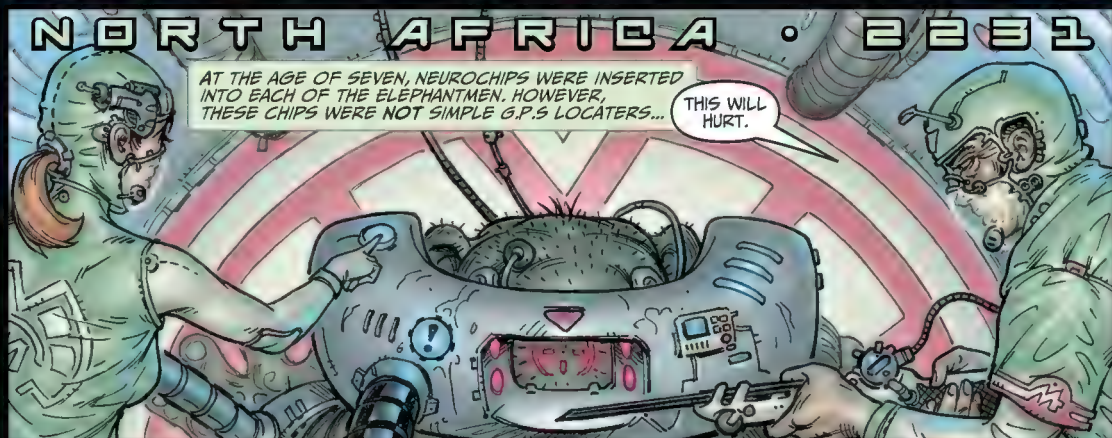
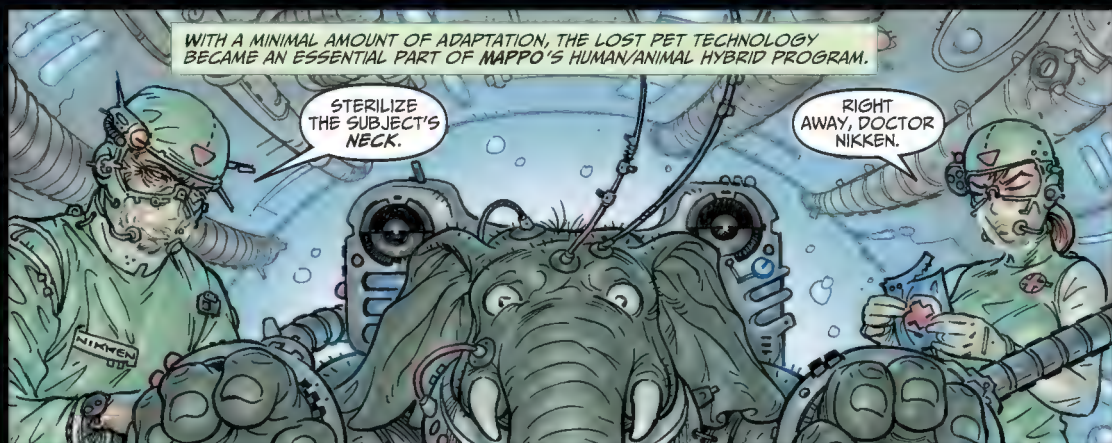
THE APPLICATIONS LOST A LITTLE OF THEIR POPULARITY WHEN CAT LOVERS TRACKED THEIR LOST ONES TO THE MIDDLE OF BUSY ROADS...

OR COYOTE DENS.



ALL RIGHT...
ALL RIGHT,
SHELBY...

I'M
GETTING
UP.



WELL, RABBI,
WE'RE INTO, WHAT, THE
THIRD DAY OF THE FIRES
NOW... STILL HAPPY YOU
BOUGHT THAT MALIBU
BEACH HOUSE...?

I LIKE IT,
HERMANN, BUT DON'T
YOU GO WISHING THAT
FIRE ON MY PROPERTY,
BOY...

I HAVE SEEN
THOSE FLASH FIRES
JUMP ACROSS P.C.H. RABBI.
IF I WERE YOU I'D BE
UPSTATE FASTER THAN IT
TAKES ME TO MAKE LOVE
TO MY GIRLFRIEND.

HEY, AS LONG
AS YOU CAN FIND
YOUR WAY HOME IN
THIS SMOG, I'M
SURE YOU'LL BE
JUST FINE,
SWEETHEART.

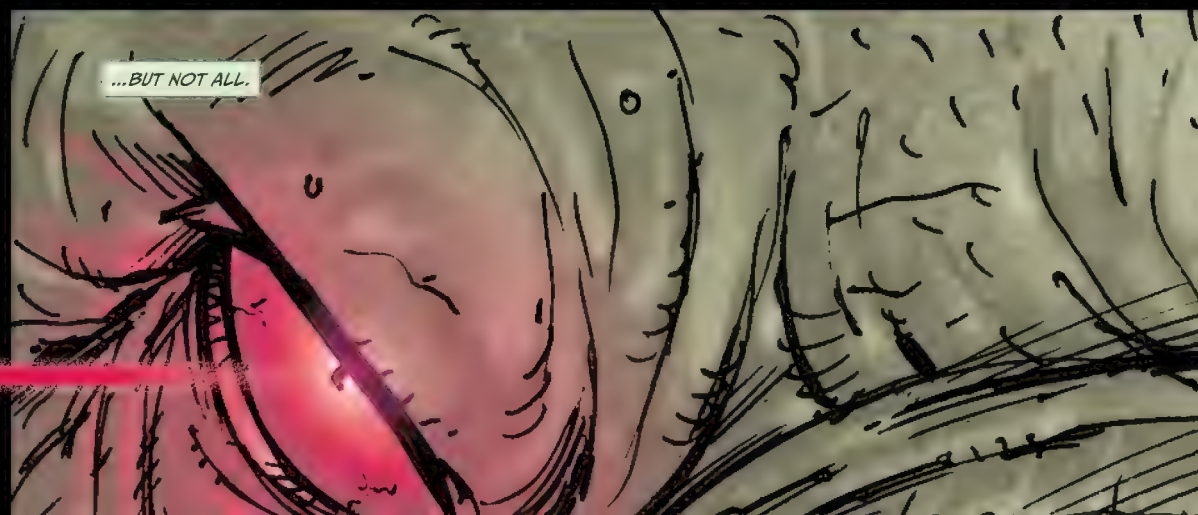
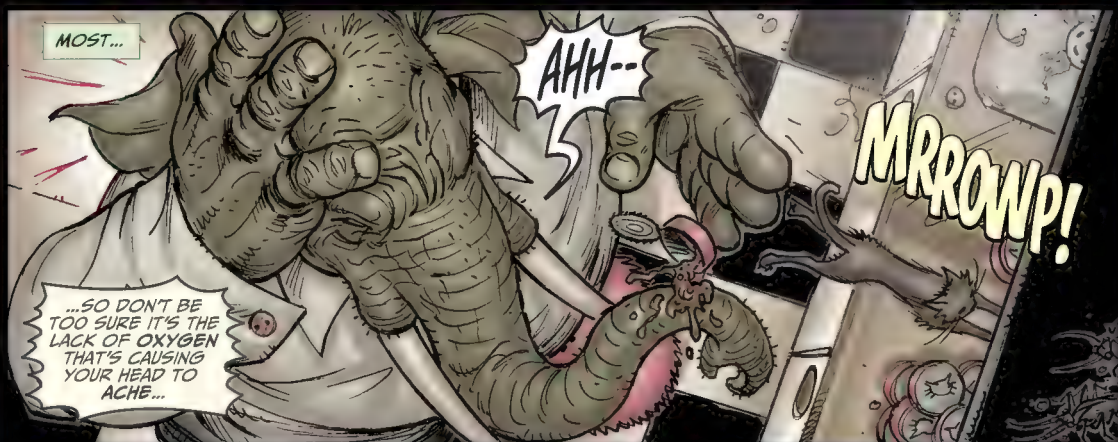
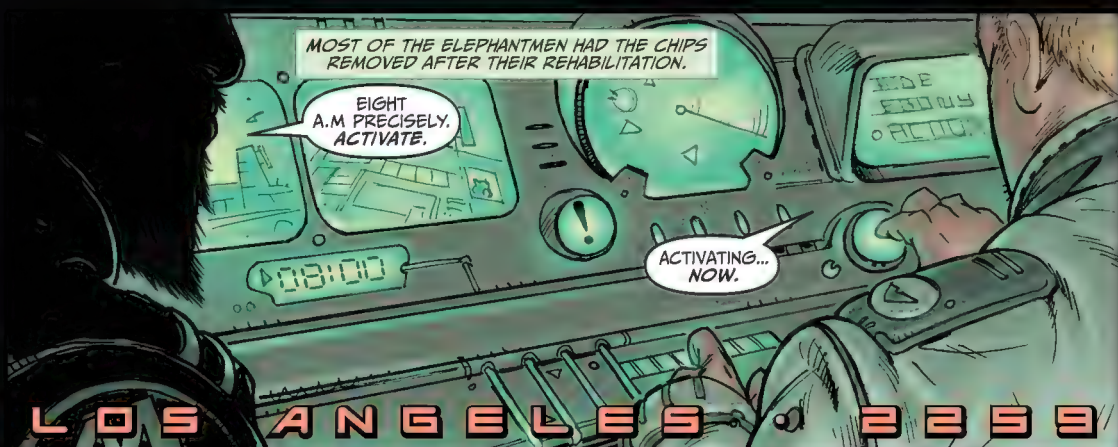
HMM... YES,
YOU'RE TUNED INTO
THE HERMANN STRUMM SHOW,
AND IF YOU'RE A REGULAR
LISTENER, YOU'LL KNOW THAT
HERMANN WAS POLLUTING
THE AIR LONG BEFORE ALL
THIS ASH GOT INTO
YOUR LUNGS...

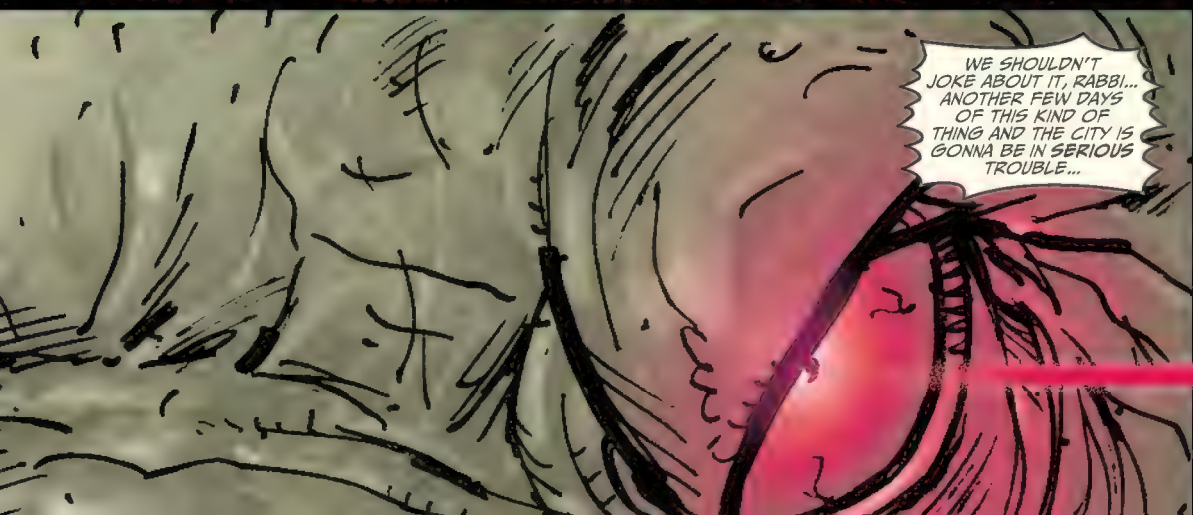
YEAH, YEAH,
I KNOW, SHELBY...
YOU DON'T LIKE
THE DRY
FOOD.

7 DAYS OF SMOG

PART ONE

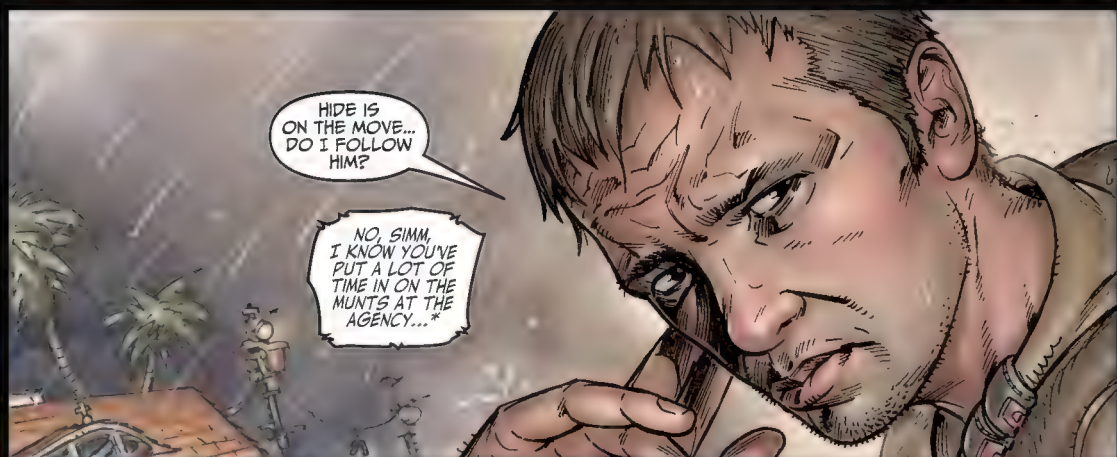






NICE
DAY FOR A
WALK...?





*See ELEPHANTMEN #15





IT HAS BEEN NEARLY TWENTY YEARS
SINCE EBONY HIDE AND HIS KIND CARVED
A RIVER OF BLOOD ACROSS EUROPE
LEAVING THOUSANDS OF HUMAN CORPSES
IN THEIR WAKE.*

HE HAS NOT FORGOTTEN
THE WAR. HE HAS NOT
FORGOTTEN HOW TO KILL.

*see ELEPHANTMEN: WAR TOYS #1-3

HIS MUSCLES REMEMBER.
AT NIGHT HIS TRIGGER FINGER
OFTEN TWITCHES INVOLUNTARILY.

Twisting and turning in his sleep
every long hot summer, Ebony
would imagine the sweat covering
his body was the warm sticky
blood of his victims... blood he
can never wash away.

AND WHY WOULD
HE WANT TO...?

THIS IS WHAT HE WAS MADE
FOR... THIS IS HIS REASON
FOR BEING.

HE WAS MEANT TO BE
A WEAPON OF WAR!

HE IS A WEAPON OF WAR!

WHAT WAS THAT QUESTION ALL THE
REPORTERS ALWAYS
WANTED TO ASK...?

THAT QUESTION THEY HAD
BEEN TRAINED NOT TO ANSWER?

HOW MANY HUMANS DID HE KILL...?

HE WOULD HAVE AN ANSWER FOR THOSE REPORTERS NOW...

NOT ENOUGH.

NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.

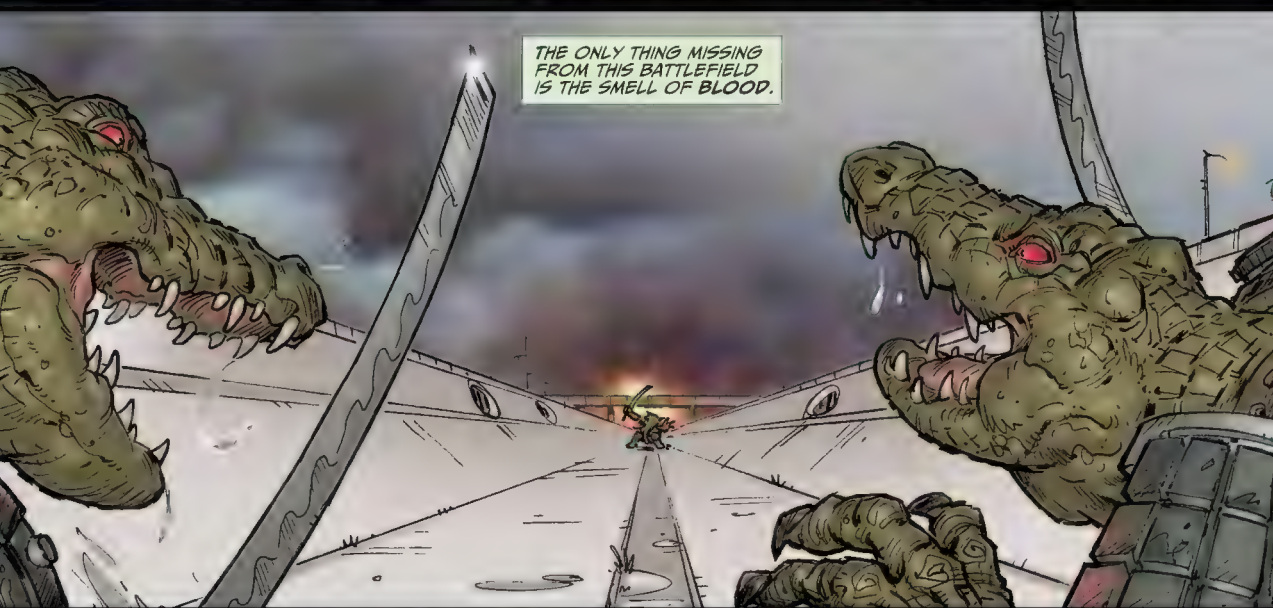


HE HAS ALWAYS KNOWN
HE WOULD KILL AGAIN.



NOW IT HAS BEEN ARRANGED
FOR HIM TO DO SO.

HOW APPROPRIATE THAT
THE AIR IS FILLED WITH
SMOKE AND ASH TODAY...



THE ONLY THING MISSING
FROM THIS BATTLEFIELD
IS THE SMELL OF BLOOD.

THE REPTILES...

EVEN THEIR FELLOW
ELEPHANTMEN REGARDED
THE CROCS AS MONSTERS.

K-K-K

BABY EATERS.

K-K-K

IN THE WILD, ELEPHANTS
NEVER LIKED CROCODILES.

WOE BETIDE ANY CROC
THAT STUMBLED ACROSS
A BULL ELEPHANT IN ITS
HYPER AGGRESSIVE
RUTTING CYCLE -- KNOWN
AS THE STATE OF MUSTH.

IN MUSTH, ELEPHANTS SECRETE A FOUL
SMELLING SWEAT CALLED TEMPORIN.

MAPPO HAD LEARNED HOW
TO CONTROL THAT AS WELL.

FINALLY.

NIKKEN'S
CHILDREN ARE
AT PLAY ONCE
MORE.



OPERATION
LOCUST HAS
BEGUN.

AFTER THE WAR, THE
ELEPHANTMEN HAD
BEEN REHABILITATED.



RE-CONDITIONED.

RETRAINED.

SOME CLAIMED...
DOMESTICATED.

BEHAVIORAL EXPERTS ATTACHED TO
THE UNITED NATIONS WERE BROUGHT
IN TO ASSESS EACH OF THE WAR
VETERANS' APITUDE AND SKILL SETS.

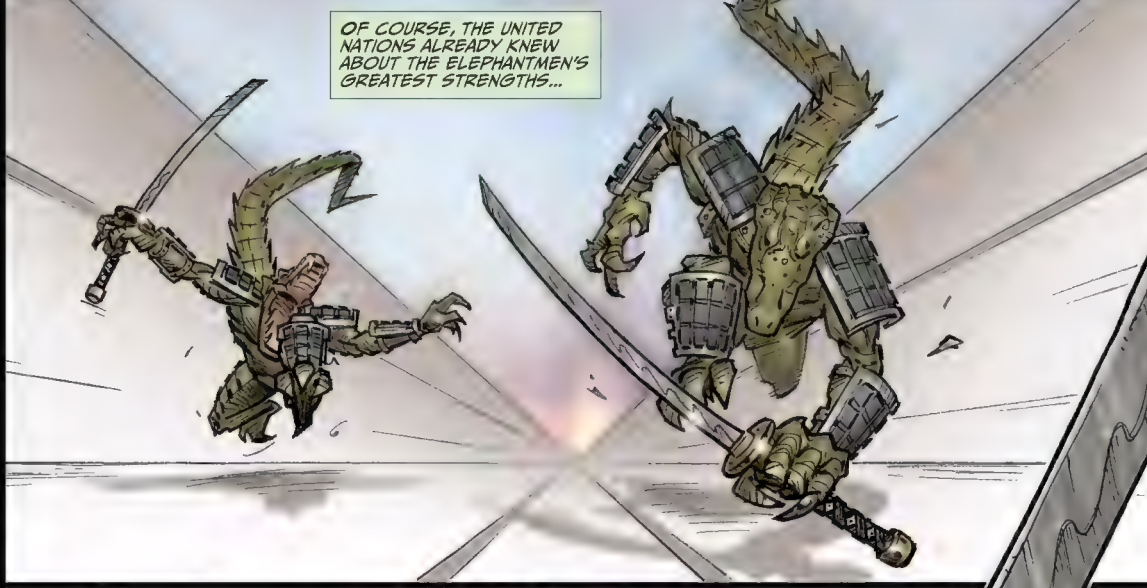
CASE STUDY CAA213407: EBONY HIDE
HAD SERVED ON THE FRONTLINES FOR
THE DURATION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN
ALLIANCE'S OFFENSIVE IN EUROPE.



THEY GAVE HIM A DESK JOB.

HIS LIFE NOW CONSISTS OF
SHUFFLING INFORMATION AGENCY
CRIME SCENE FILES FROM ONE
SERVER TO ANOTHER.

NO ONE EVER ASKED HIM
ABOUT JOB SATISFACTION.



OF COURSE, THE UNITED NATIONS ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THE ELEPHANTMEN'S GREATEST STRENGTHS...

This panel shows two Elephantmen in a dynamic combat pose. They are green, heavily armored creatures with large, curved blades. The background is a simple, light-colored floor with some motion lines.



BUT, BY AND LARGE, THEY CHOSE TO IGNORE THEM.

A close-up shot of an Elephantman's arm and hand. The arm is thick and green, covered in armor. The hand is holding a large, curved blade. The background is a simple, light-colored floor with some motion lines.



THEY TREATED THE ELEPHANTMEN LIKE NORMAL, HUMAN, WAR VETS...

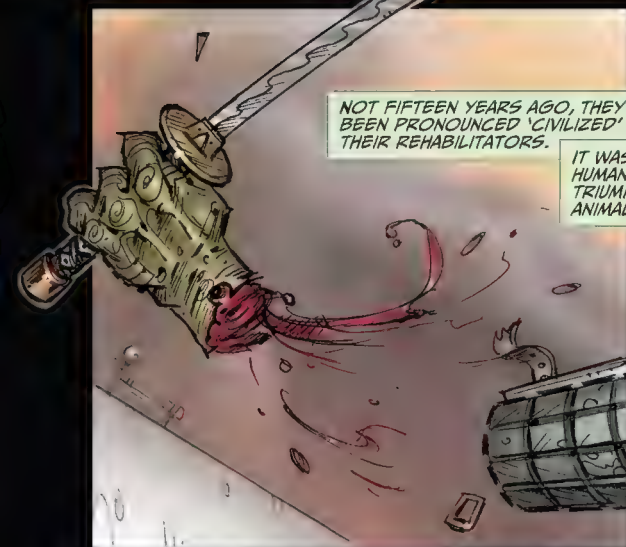
This panel shows an Elephantman lying on the ground, appearing injured or dead. The creature is green and heavily armored, with a large, curved blade. The background is a simple, light-colored floor with some motion lines.

WHICH, OF COURSE, IS SIMPLY A WAY OF SAYING
THAT THEY DIDN'T TREAT THEM VERY WELL AT ALL.





NO WONDER, THEN, THAT THESE FIVE CREATURES WERE WOKEN FROM THEIR STUPORS SO EASILY.

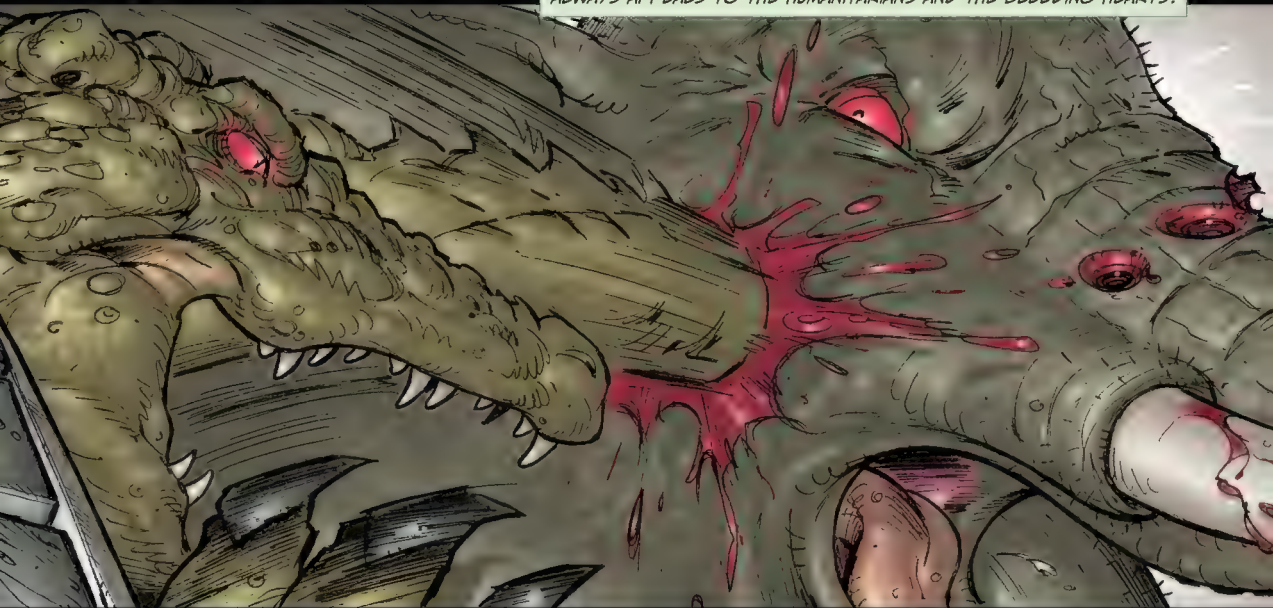


NOT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THEY HAD BEEN PRONOUNCED 'CIVILIZED' BY THEIR REHABILITATORS.

IT WAS SAID THAT THEIR HUMAN TRAITS HAD TRIUMPHED OVER THEIR ANIMALISTIC TENDENCIES.



COUCHED IN A WELL WORDED PRESS RELEASE, THAT KIND OF THING ALWAYS APPEALS TO THE HUMANITARIANS AND THE BLEEDING HEARTS.





DID THOSE SAME BLEEDING
HEARTS EVER LOOK AT THE
WITNESS FOOTAGE FROM
THE WESTERN FRONT OF
MAPPO'S ADVANCE ON ASIA?

DID ANY OF THEM LOSE
A FAMILY MEMBER OR
CLOSE FRIEND IN THAT
WAR-TO-END-ALL-WARS?

WERE ANY OF
THEM TORTURED?

FORCED TO REVEAL
THE LOCATIONS OF
KEY MEMBERS OF
THE RESISTANCE?

PROBABLY NOT.

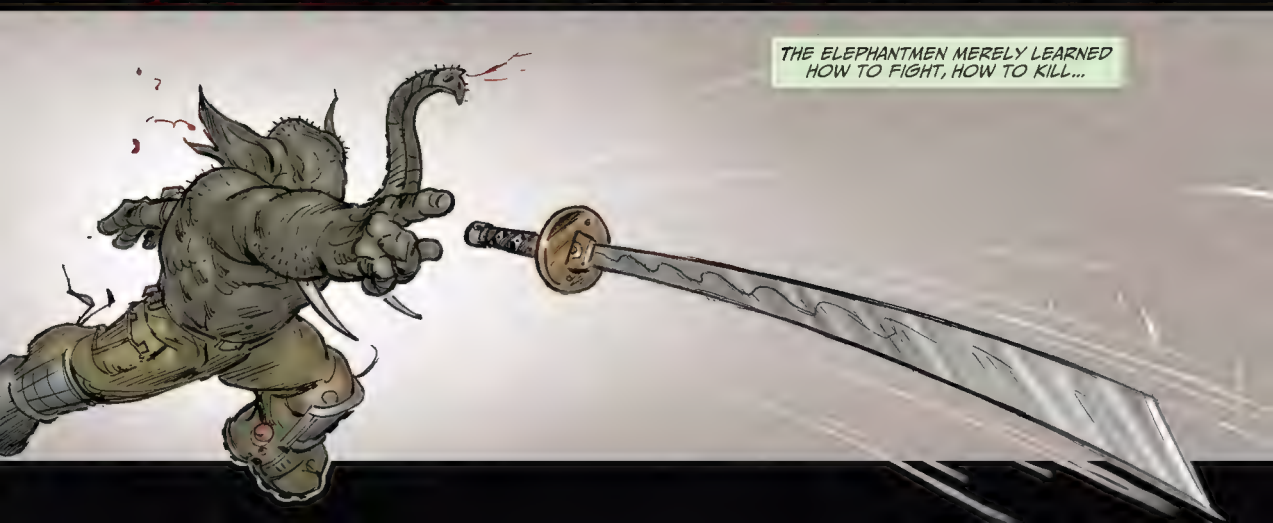


SO THESE MONSTERS
LIVE AMONGST MEN...

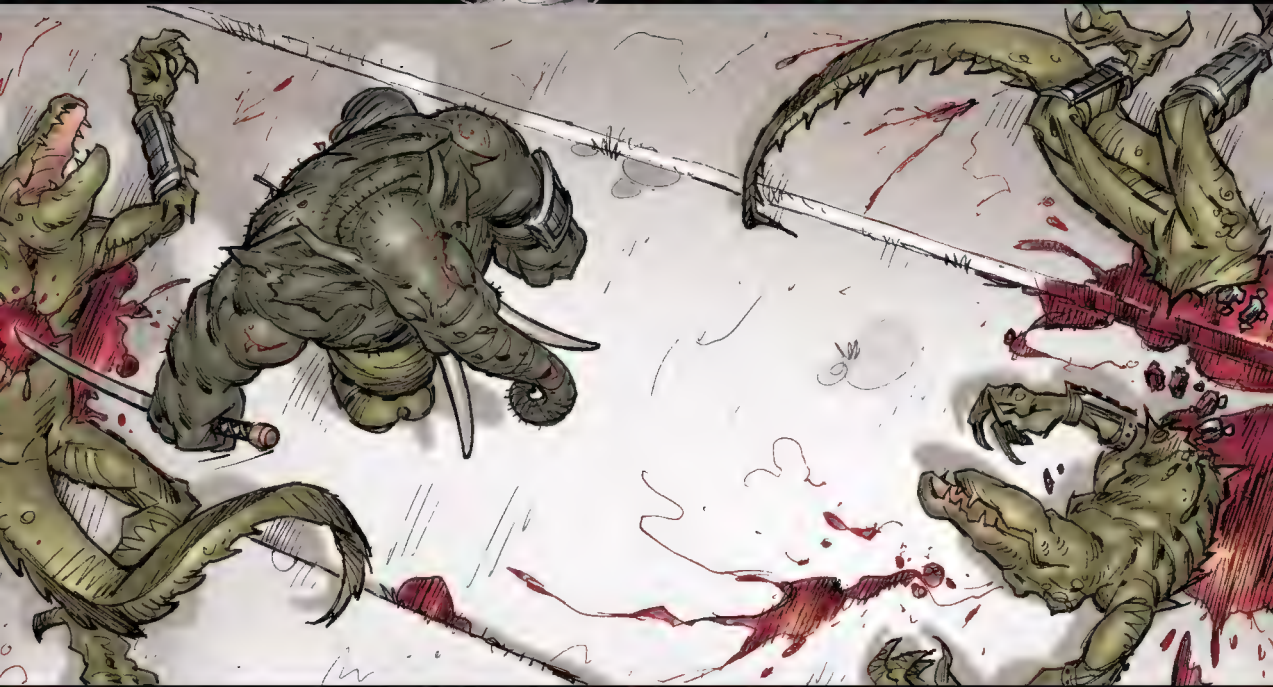
AND WHY SHOULDN'T THEY?



MEN MADE THEM.



THE ELEPHANTMEN MERELY LEARNED
HOW TO FIGHT, HOW TO KILL...





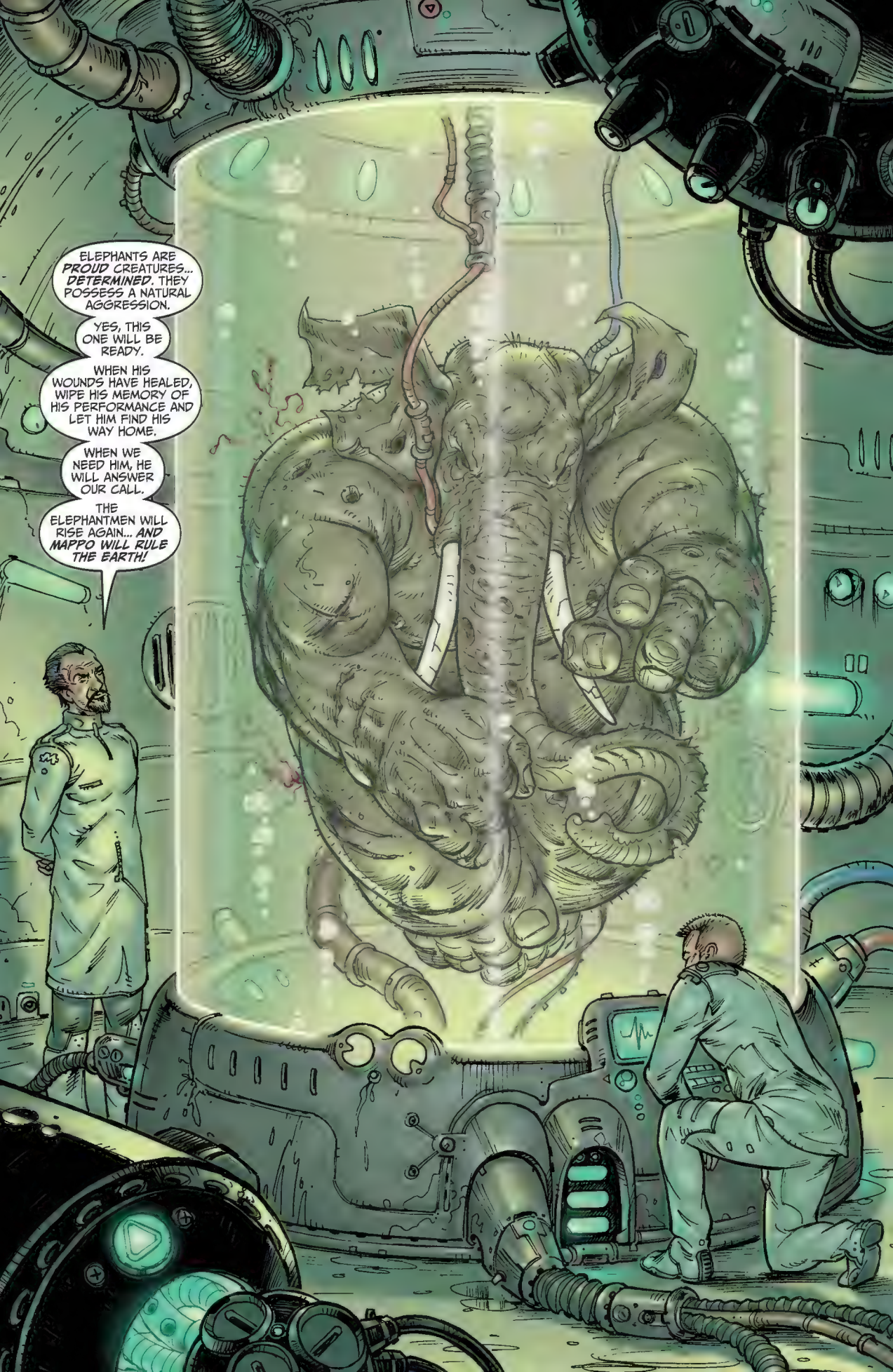
ELEPHANTS ARE
PROUD CREATURES...
DETERMINED. THEY
POSSESS A NATURAL
AGGRESSION.

YES, THIS
ONE WILL BE
READY.

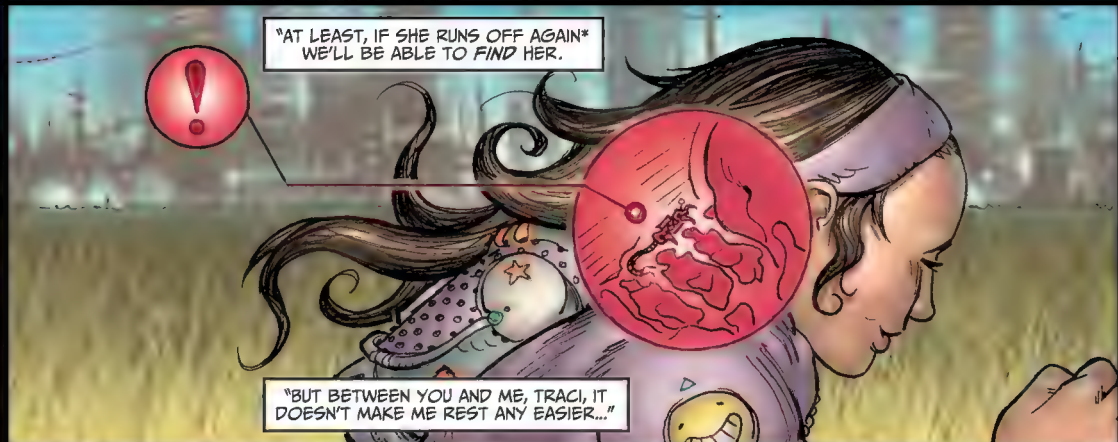
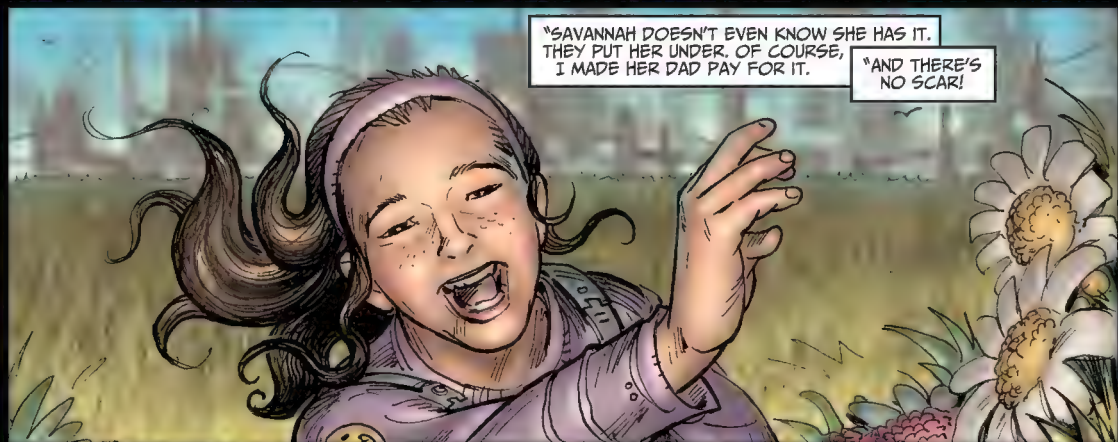
WHEN HIS
WOUNDS HAVE HEALED,
WIPE HIS MEMORY OF
HIS PERFORMANCE AND
LET HIM FIND HIS
WAY HOME.

WHEN WE
NEED HIM, HE
WILL ANSWER
OUR CALL.

THE
ELEPHANTMEN WILL
RISE AGAIN... **AND
MAPPO WILL RULE
THE EARTH!**







*See ELEPHANTMEN #6 & 7



01 DANGEROUS LIAISONS SIX
B

ELEPHANTMEN™



#021 SEPT 2009
\$3.50

Richard
STARKINGS

Jan
CHURCHILL

Boo
COOK



HIPPOPOTAMUS WRECKS!

ELEPHANT MEN

image

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MIN

DANGEROUS LIAISONS



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2009
#022

DAINGEROUS EMISSIONS SEVEN

うどん★ラーメン

ELEPHANTMEN

APPROVED
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COMIC
AUTHORITY

S T M M



Following the crash of the meteor into Santa Monica Bay, a young man calling himself Simm came to the aid of VANITY CASE. He seems to have been keeping track of HIP FLASK and EBONY HIDE and reporting back to persons unknown... but even that isn't clear to Vanity, any more than are his motives for doing so...

"LOVE IS
BLIND, AND
LOVERS
CANNOT SEE
THE PRETTY
FOLLIES THAT
THEMSELVES
COMMIT..."

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE







=KEFF!-
WHAT?
=KOFF!-

WHAT IS IT
NOW, GODBER?
=KEFF!-



WELL, IT
JUST OCCURRED
TO ME....

YOU SAID
THAT MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS WERE SPENT
GETTING US IN TO THIS
GRAVEYARD...

=KEFF!- LENNY,
JUST
FINDING
OUT THE PLOT WITH
THE BODY IN QUESTION
MUST HAVE COST A
MILLION ALONE.

SO WHAT'S
YOUR POINT?
=KOFF!-



WELL, IT'S
ALL VERY WELL
US DIGGING...

BUT THIS
COFFIN AND ITS
OCCUPANT HAVE
GOT TO WEIGH
AT LEAST TWO
THOUSAND
POUNDS...

AND
IT'S NOT AS
IF WE HAVE
THE EQUIPMENT
TO EXTRACT IT,
DO WE?

OH
GOR BLIMEY...
YOU HAD TO ASK,
DINTCHAP?

YOU WANT
THE GOD'S
HONEST TRUTH,
GODBER?
WE'RE
NOT HERE FOR
THE BODY.



PEOPLE
LOOK AT DOCTOR
KANEKO AND THEY
THINK I'M FORTY,
FORTY-FIVE,
TOPS...

I'M
SEVENTY-FIVE
YEARS OLD.



PAY
'TENTION,
TINY!

LOS
ANGELES TRYIN'
TO KILL ME SINCE
I GOT HERE SIXTY
YEAR AGO.

FIRST,
BIG EARTHQUAKE,
ALSO THE FLOODS
OF FORTY-THREE!
AND METEOR!

NOW,
FIRES!

AIR VERY
UNHEALTHFUL.
GOTTA EAT
RIGHT!

AN'
EXERCISE.
TAI CHI, CHI
GON...



KEEP
MASK ON UNTIL
SANTA ANA WINDS
BLOW SMOKE AWAY
FROM CITY....

MEANWHILE,
YOU MUST EAT
HEALTHY. JAPANESE
FOOD BEST!



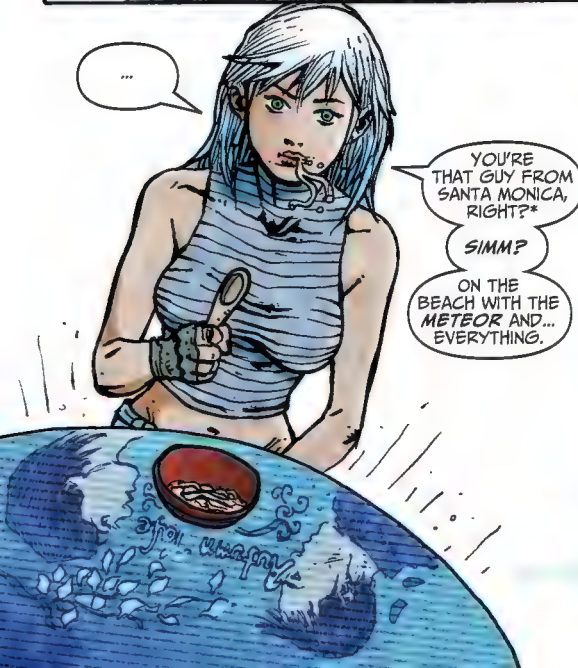
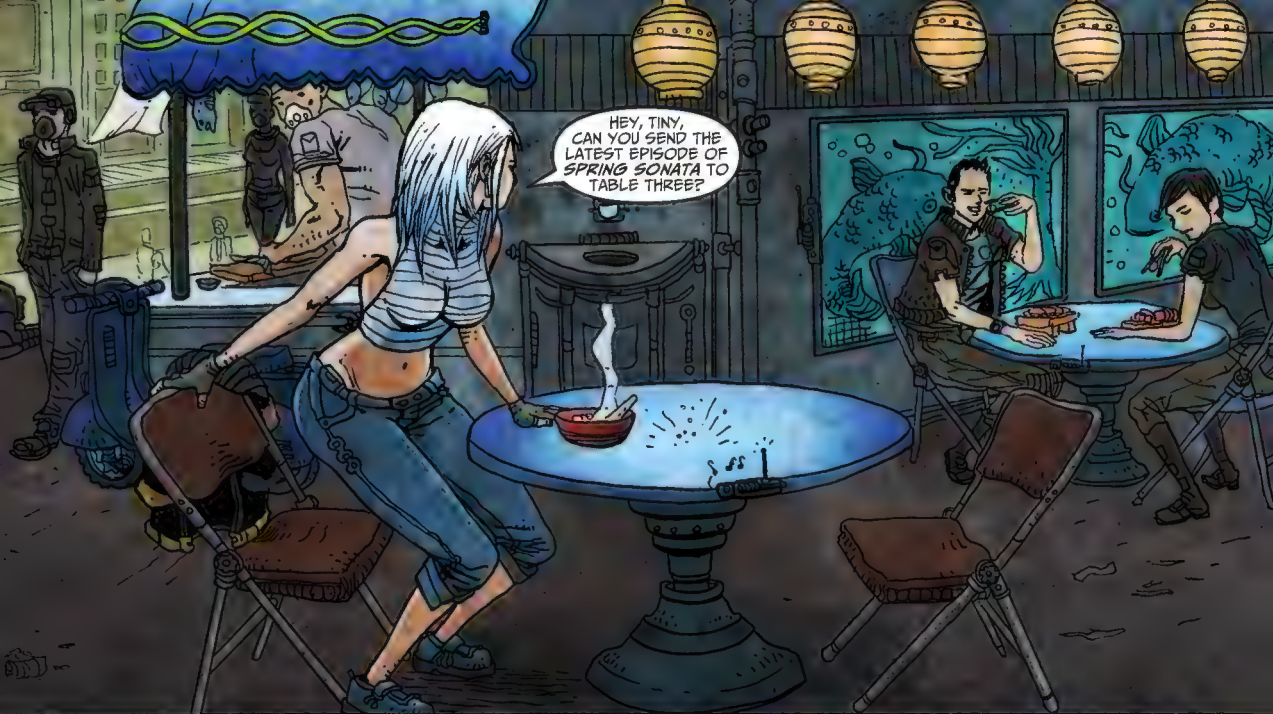
BEST THING
FOR YOUNG GIRL
WALKING AROUND IN
THIS SOUP... IS
THIS SOUP!



7 DAYS OF SMOG
PART TWO

TRUTH

By Starkings and Andre Szymanowicz, colors by Gregory Wright

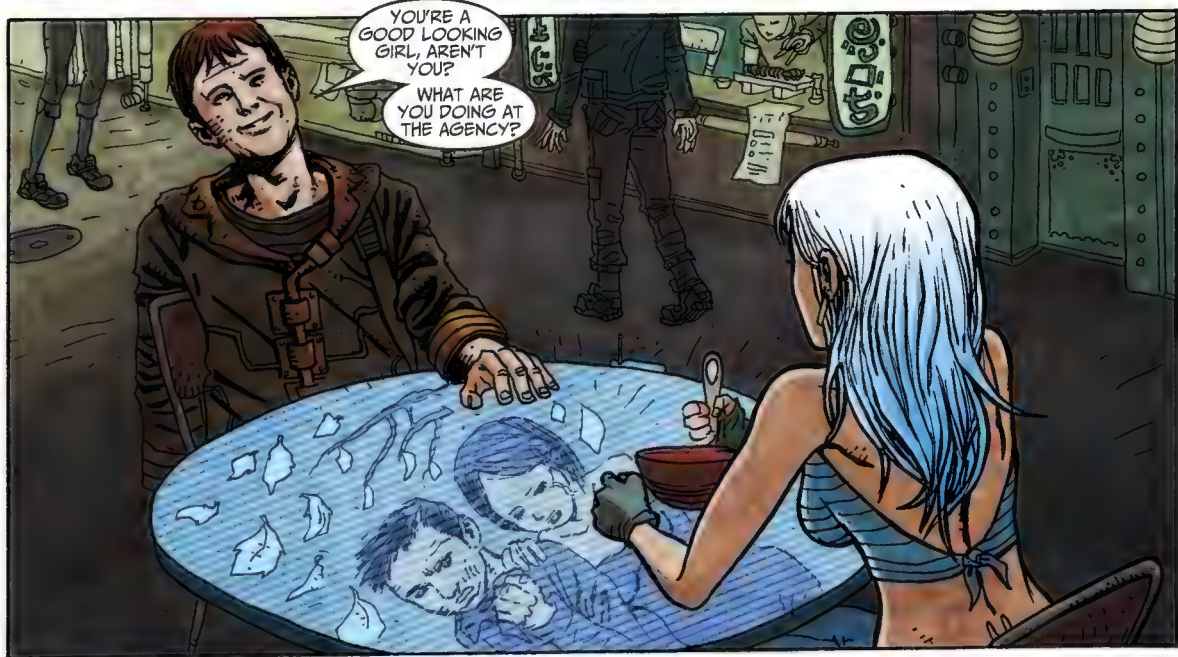




SO, WHAT'S THE STORY OF ALL THOSE TOURISTS THAT WERE ROUNDED UP ON THE BEACH?

DID I... TELL YOU I WORKED AT THE AGENCY?

ARE YOU A JOURNALIST OR SOMETHING?



YOU'RE A GOOD LOOKING GIRL, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THE AGENCY?



HHH. THAT'S A LONG STORY...

AND NOT ONE I'D CARE TO TELL A REPORTER.



YOU'VE GOT ME ALL WRONG.

I'M JUST A CONCERNED CITIZEN.

SO, WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING WITH ELEPHANTMEN?

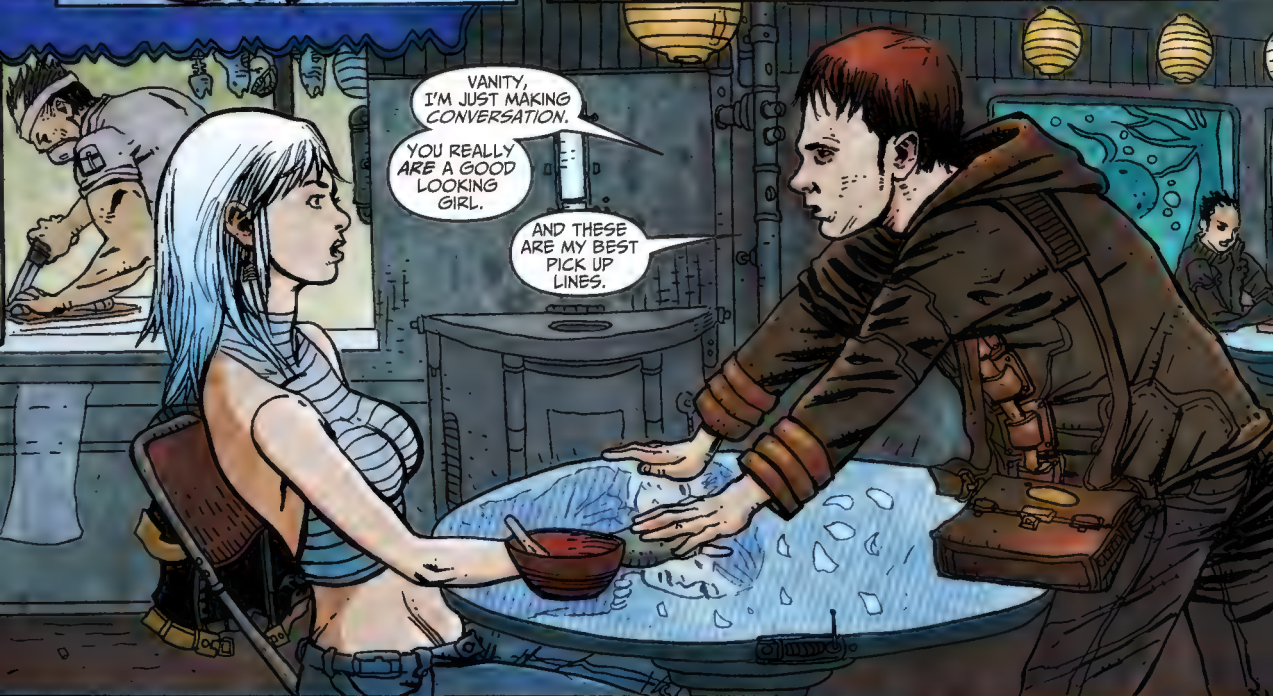


WHAT...?



ARE THEY
SCARED OF
MICE?
DO THEY
EAT A LOT OF
PEANUTS?

DO
THEY TREAD
ON YOUR TOES
REGULARLY?



VANITY,
I'M JUST MAKING
CONVERSATION.

YOU REALLY
ARE A GOOD
LOOKING
GIRL.

AND THESE
ARE MY BEST
PICK UP
LINES.

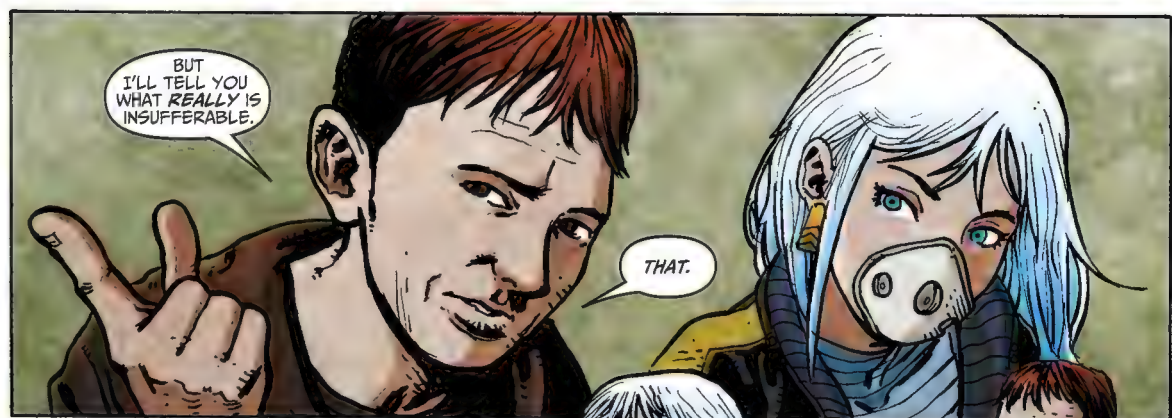


UH...



HM.

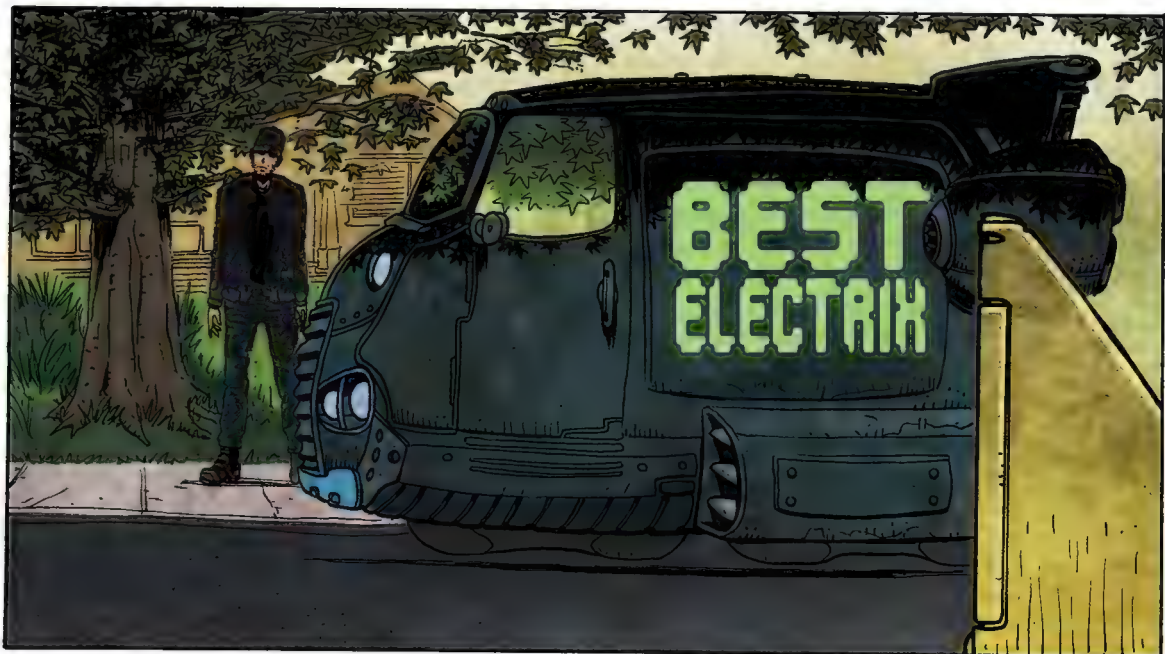
HEY. CAN
I SHOW YOU
SOMETHING?



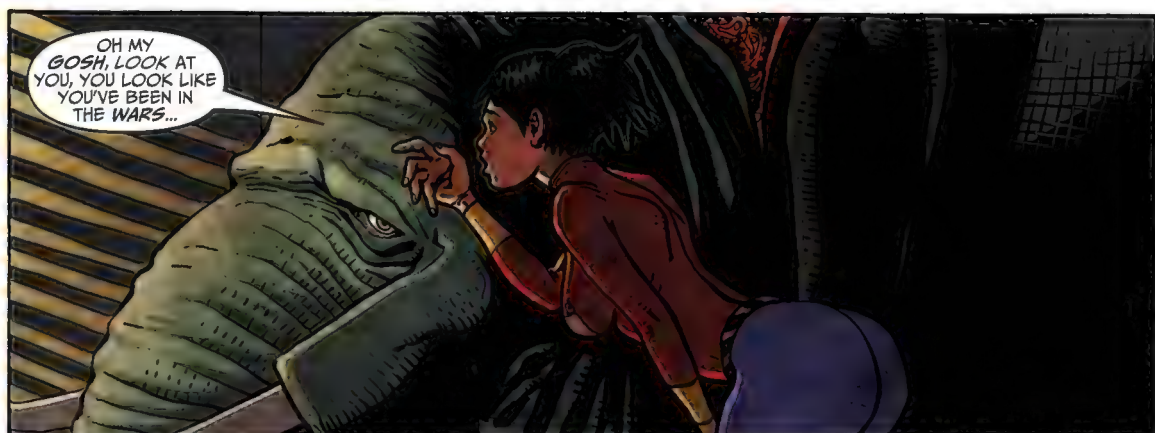
IS THAT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HIP?













I THINK
EBONY'S HAD
QUITE ENOUGH
OF THIS,
HMM?



IS THAT
WHY YOUR
HEAD HURTS,
EBONY?
ARE YOU
BACK ON THE
SAUCE?



OR MAYBE
EXPOSURE TO THE
VIRUS IS CAUSING YOU
FLASHBACKS?*

*See ELEPHANTMEN #14 & 15



你有吃過
肉嗎?



我不知
道你會
講中文!



UHHH...



YOU SPEAK CHINESE?

I HAD A PRIVATE EDUCATION, YOU KNOW.



JUST BECAUSE I'M SUPER-HOT DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT SUPER SMART.



THOUGHT YOU HAD A SECRET LANGUAGE, HM?

OKAY, TELL ME, WHY YOU KIDS LEARNED CHINESE?



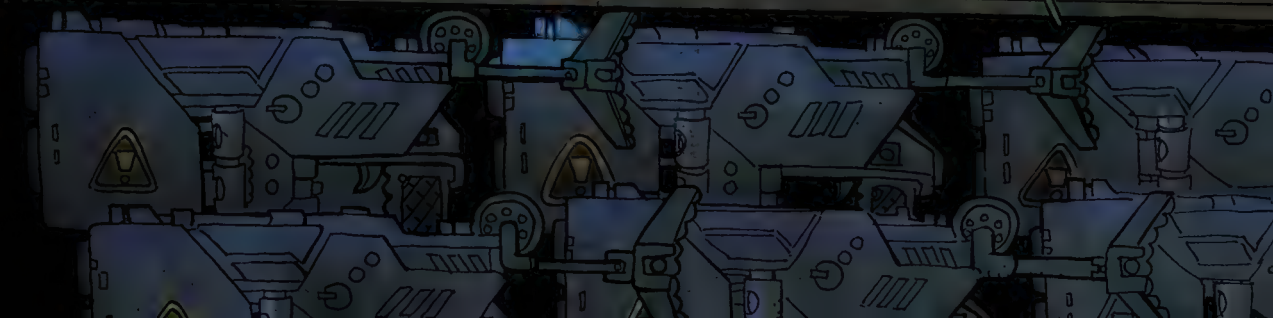
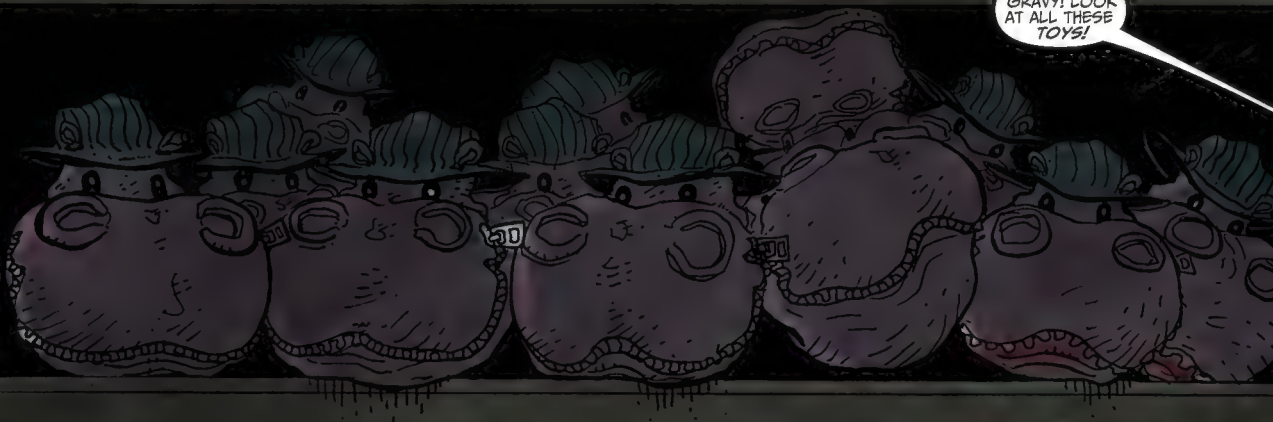
THAT'S SIMPLE.

SO WE COULD TELL OUR ENEMIES HOW WE WERE GOING TO KILL THEM.

THE ZOO GANG!



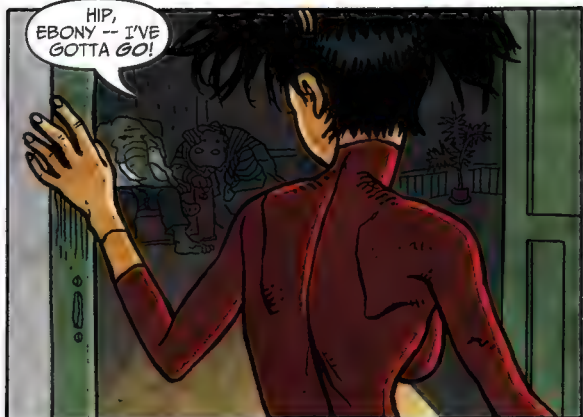
GOOD
GRAVY! LOOK
AT ALL THESE
TOYS!

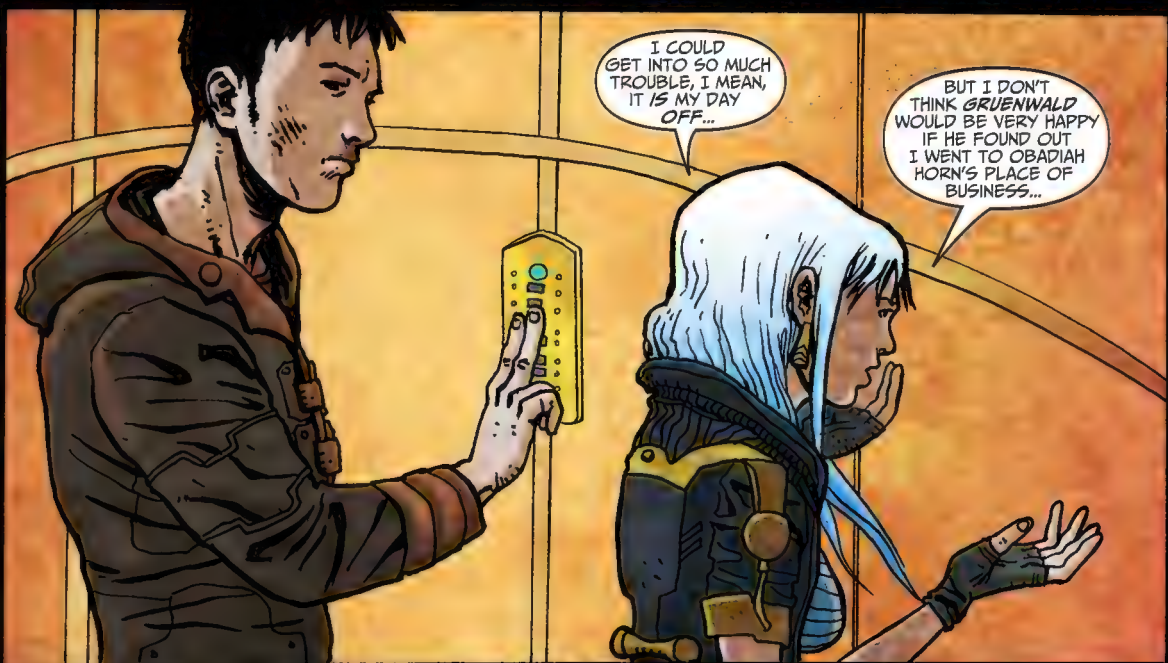














To Be Continued...

DANGEROUS LIAISONS

EIGHT
B

ELEPHANTMAN

DEC 2009
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32
PAGES
NO ADS!



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DANGEROUS  LIAISONS EIGHT of 8

ELEPHANTMEN

32
 PAGES
 NO ADS!



CONSEQUENCES



DEC 2009 • \$3.50 • #23

PURCHASE

Samuel Purchase is OBADIAH HORN's right hand man. It is his responsibility to protect Horn and Horn's fiancée, SAHARA, from those who would like to see them cast out of their Ivory Tower and forced to live among the "ordinary" people.



Sometimes it has been necessary to kill the inquisitive people who have gotten to know a little too much about the true nature of Obadiah Horn's business dealings, and Purchase has been happy to kill some of those people himself.



In times of war, Purchase might have been regarded as a collaborator... but Even if the U.S government isn't aware of it, Purchase knows that there IS a war on, and his intention is to stay on the winning side.



"EVERY
MAN IS A
MOON, AND
HAS A DARK
SIDE WHICH
HE NEVER
SHOWS TO
ANYBODY."

MARK TWAIN

HOLD
IT RIGHT
THERE!





I - DON'T
WANT TO -
NGGN - HURT
YOU!



PUT THE
HAPPY STICK
DOWN, ELIAS,
MY OLD FRIEND...

THE
WAR WITH
THE HUMANS
IS OVER!



LISTEN,
TRAPPER'S
RIGHT...
WE'RE
YOUR FRIENDS!
THE HUMANS
ARE OUR
FRIENDS!

WE HAVE
A COMMON
ENEMY
NOW...
MAPPO!



UNNNH!
NO... NONONO
YOU'RE
WRONG!

HUMANS
ENSLAVED
US!

MAPPO
CREATED
US!



**MAPPO
WILL SET US
FREE!**

LOS ANGELES • 2259

7 DAYS OF
SMOG
PART THREE

CONSEQUENCES

*By Starkings and
Moritat
colors by Gregory Wright*

*Thanks
to André
Szymanowicz*

THAT IS
WHY ALL THE
HUMANS MUST
DIE!

JUST
LOOK AT
THAT...





SIMM, DOES IT SEEM LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE A/C IN HERE...? I'M FEELING A LITTLE... A LITTLE DIZZY...

I KNOW, IT MAKES YOU WANT TO VOMIT, DOESN'T IT?

FIVE YEARS OF WAR AND BLOODSHED AND OBADIAH HORN REDUCES IT TO A CARTOON DESIGNED TO SELL TOYS AND SWELL HIS BANK ACCOUNT.



ONE KISS AND MY KNEES GET ALL WEAK... I'M SUCH A GIRL!

OH, YOU'LL BE FINE IN A FEW MINUTES, VANITY...



IT'LL WEAR OFF.

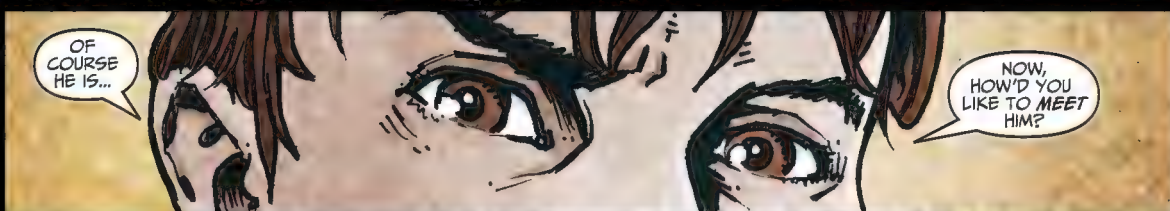
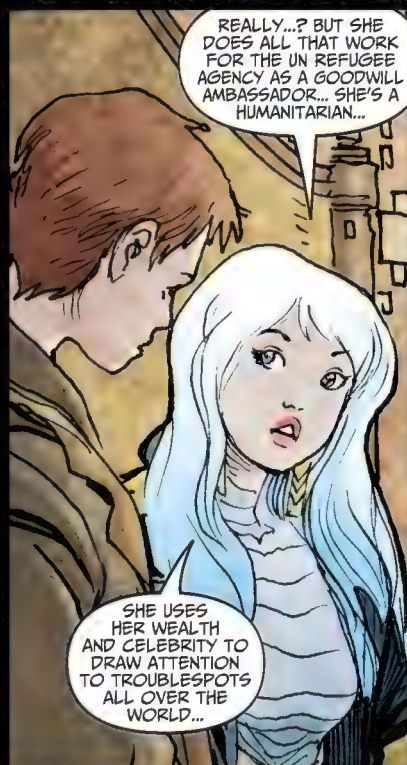
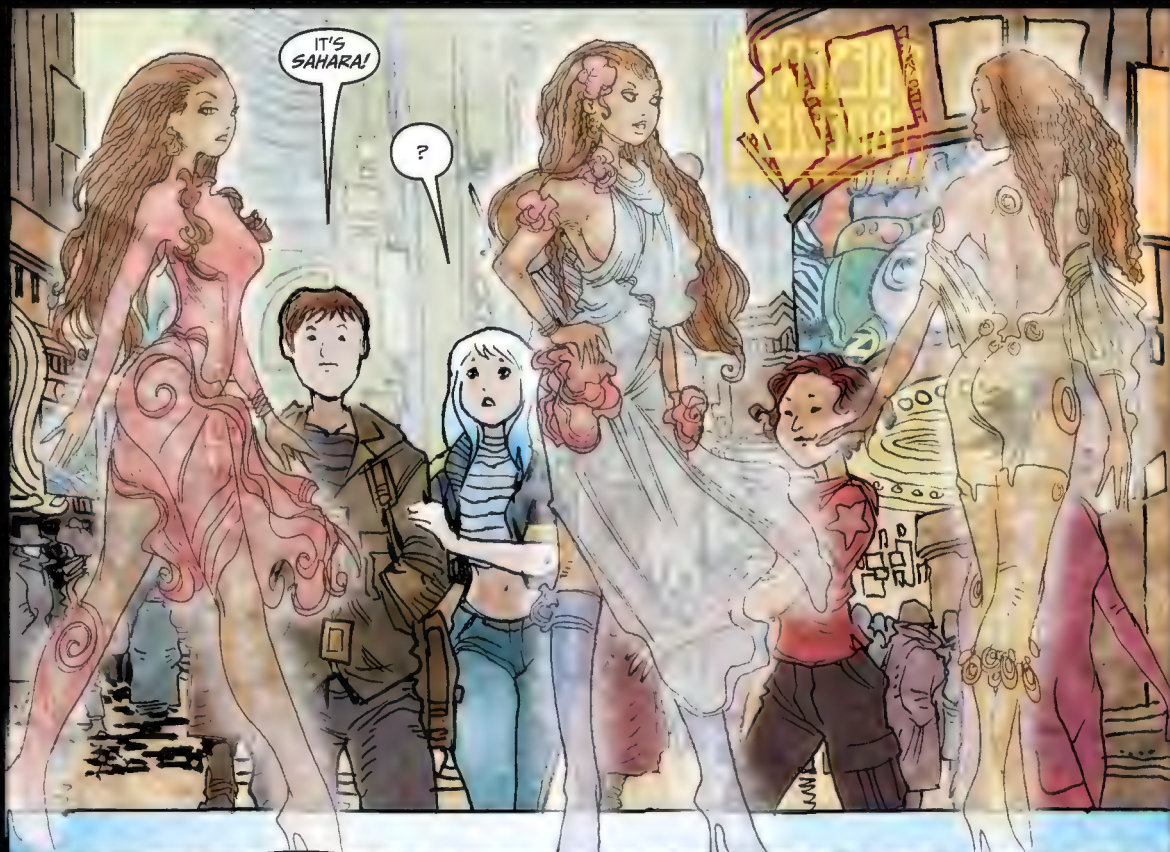


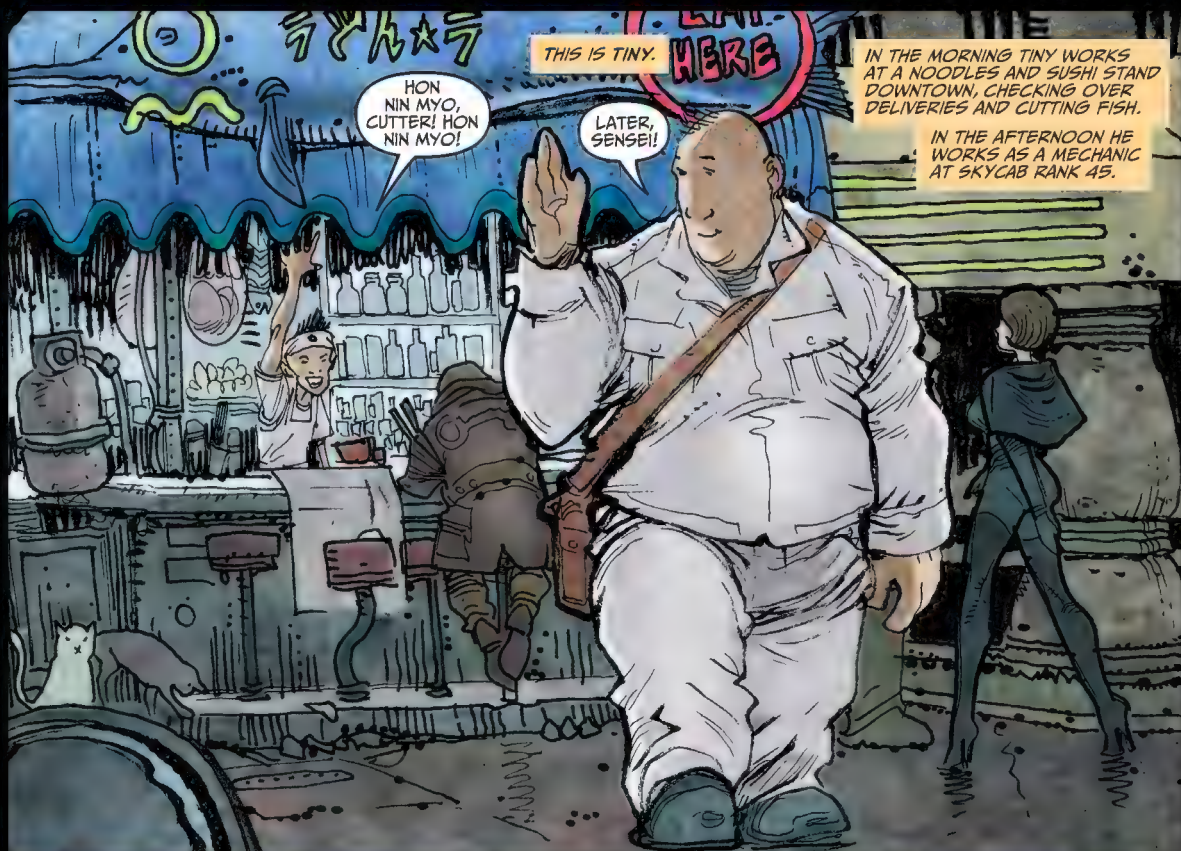
OH, YOU CHARMER... DO YOU SAY THAT TO ALL THE GIRLS?



AND LOOK THERE...

NOW, IF THERE'S *ONE* PERSON WHO'S EXPLOITED THE ELEPHANTMEN *MORE* THAN NIKKEN OR OBADIAH HORN...





THIS IS TINY.

HERE

HON
NIN MYO,
CUTTER! HON
NIN MYO!

LATER,
SENSEI!

IN THE MORNING TINY WORKS
AT A NOODLES AND SUSHI STAND
DOWNTOWN, CHECKING OVER
DELIVERIES AND CUTTING FISH.

IN THE AFTERNOON HE
WORKS AS A MECHANIC
AT SKYCAB RANK 45.



TINY IS A
BIG GUY
WITH AN
EVEN
BIGGER
HEART.

HE DOESN'T
GET OUT MUCH.
DOESN'T GET TO
SEE MANY GIRLS.

EXCEPT ONE.
ONE OF THE
CAB DRIVERS.



MIKI.

TINY HAS BEEN IN LOVE
WITH MIKI SINCE THE FIRST
DAY HE LAID EYES ON HER.

BUT HE'S NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO TELL HER.

ZZT-- GIVE
US A KISS, YA
BIG LUG...
ZZT-- GIVE
US A KISS, YA
BIG LUG...

HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR
THE RIGHT MOMENT.

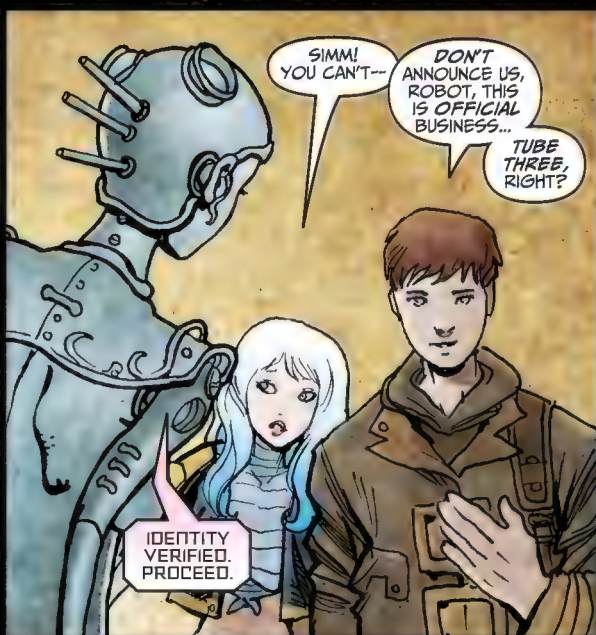
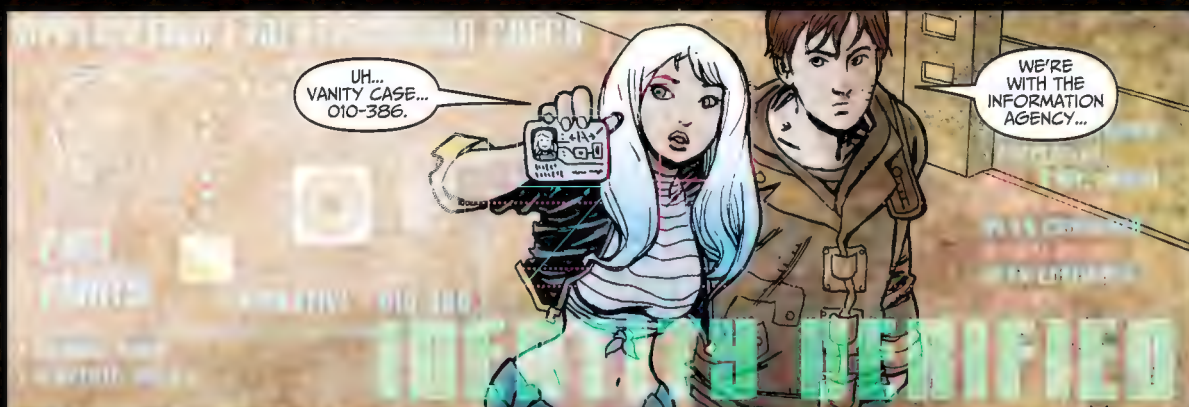
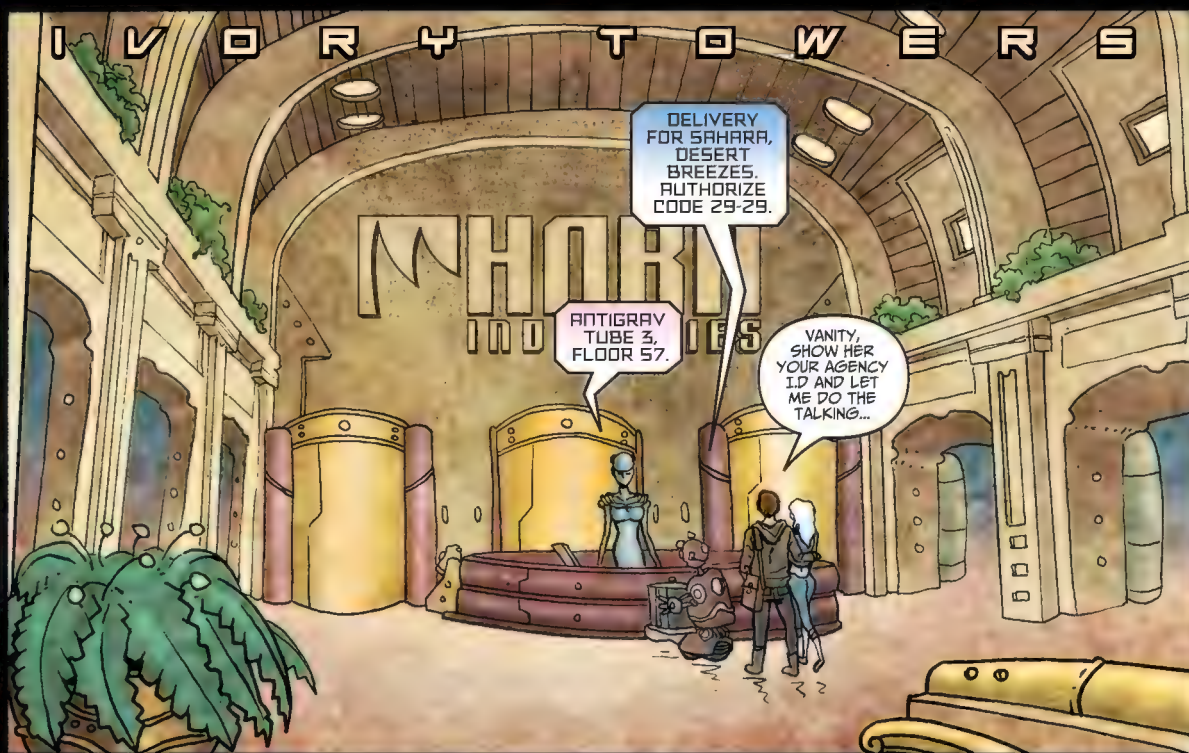


"HON NIN MYO."

THAT'S WHAT
SENSEI IS
ALWAYS
TELLING HIM.

"FROM THIS
MOMENT ON."

"TINY, EVERY MOMENT
IS THE RIGHT MOMENT!"





CURIOUS.
THE GIRL IS
LEGIT.

WHY
WOULD ANYONE
FROM THE AGENCY
BE SNIFFING
AROUND HERE
AGAIN?

LET
THEM UP.
I'LL DEAL
WITH THESE
TWO.

SAMUEL PURCHASE HAS
BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH
THE SECURITY OF
OBADIAH HORN AND HIS
CONSORT, SAHARA, FOR
TEN YEARS ALREADY.

HAD HE NOT SERVED HORN
INDUSTRIES TO THE UTMOST
OF HIS ABILITIES IN THAT
TIME, HE KNOWS THAT THE
RECENT SERIES OF
INCIDENTS... THE METEORITE
AND THE ALTERCATIONS AT
SAINT FRANCIS'S* COULD
VERY WELL HAVE COST HIM
HIS JOB, IF NOT HIS LIFE.

BUT PURCHASE MANAGED TO EXTRICATE
HORN FROM THE SITUATION... AND, BY
GOOD FORTUNE, SAHARA AS WELL.

HAD SAHARA
BEEN TAKEN
BY HER FATHER,
SERENGHETI...*





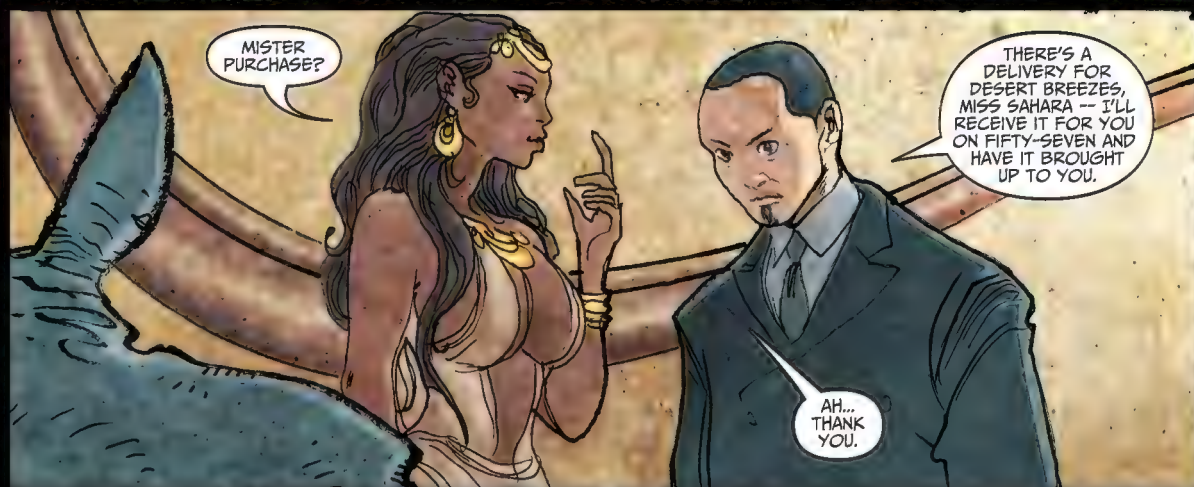
WELL....



SAMUEL?



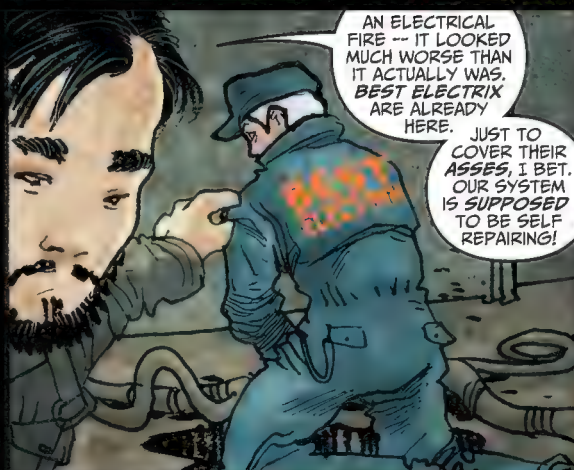
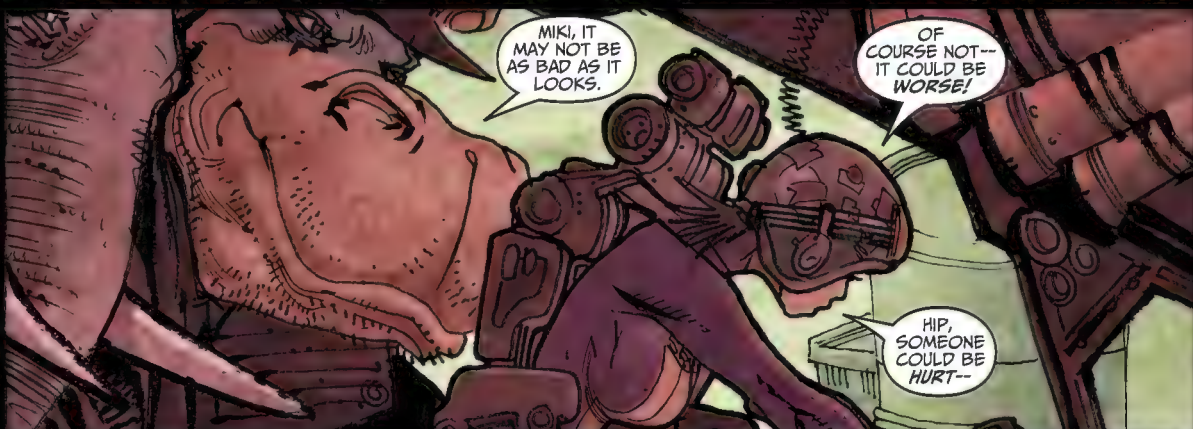
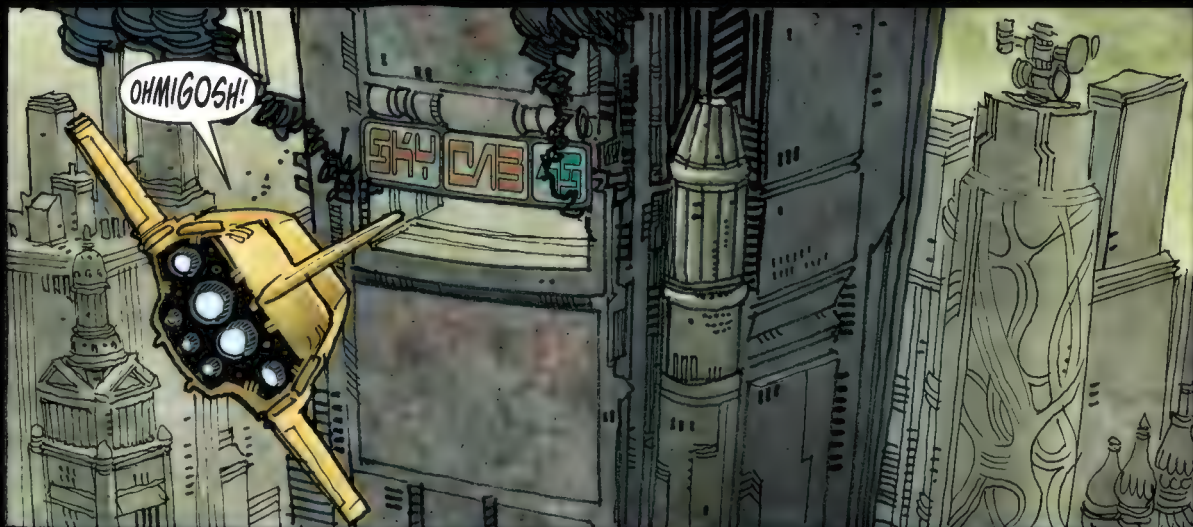
...BEST NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.

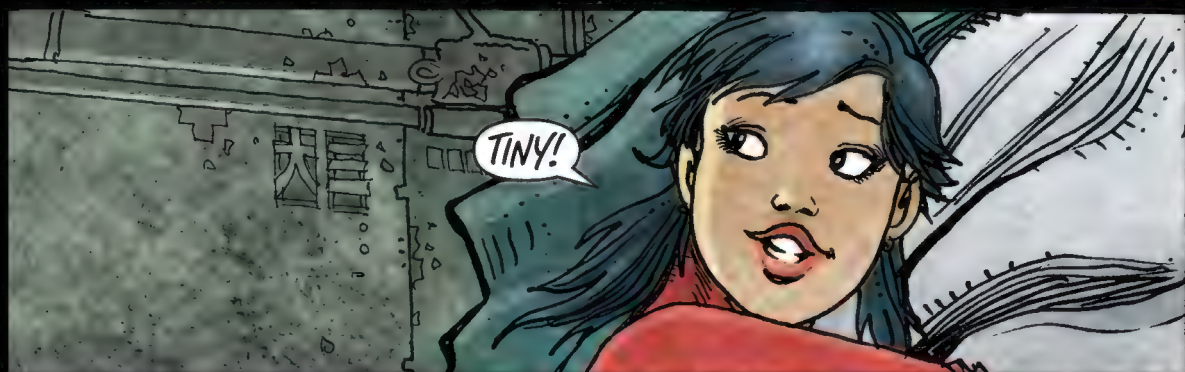


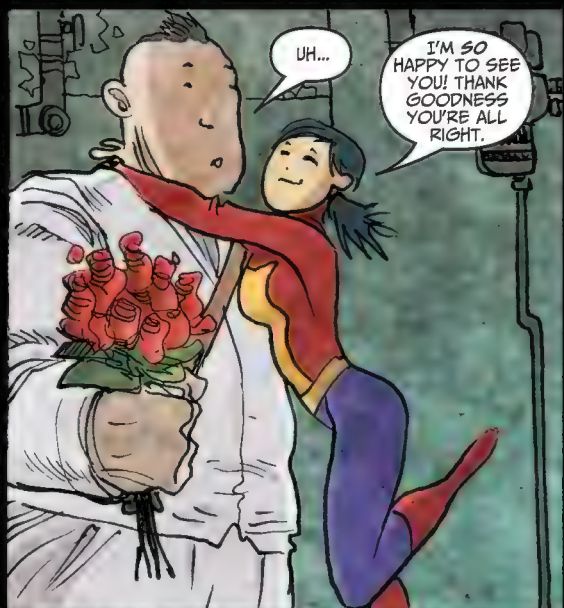
MISTER
PURCHASE?

THERE'S A
DELIVERY FOR
DESERT BREEZES,
MISS SAHARA -- I'LL
RECEIVE IT FOR YOU
ON FIFTY-SEVEN AND
HAVE IT BROUGHT
UP TO YOU.

AH...
THANK
YOU.







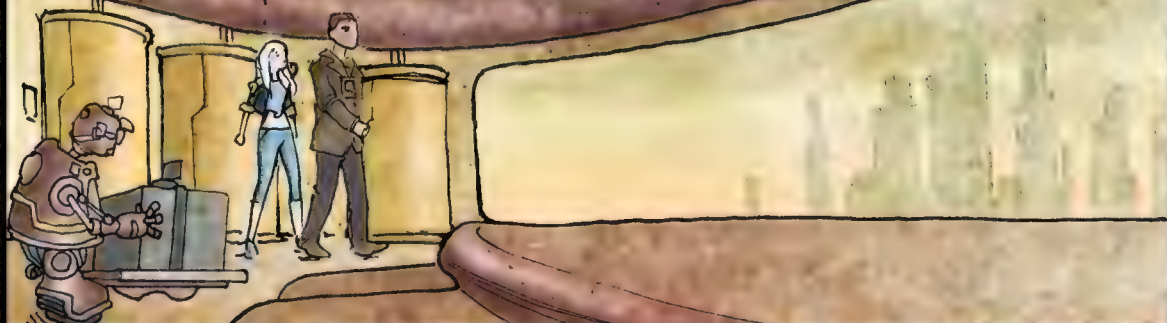
IVORY TOWERS

SIGNATURE
RELEASE FOR
DESERT BREEZE?

SIMM.
Y'KNOW, I REALLY
SHOULDN'T...

LOOK AT
THE AMAZING VIEW!
ISN'T THIS JUST THE
PERFECT PLACE TO
LOOK DOWN AT ALL
THE LITTLE
PEOPLE, EH?

THAT'S ONE
WAY OF LOOKING
AT IT...

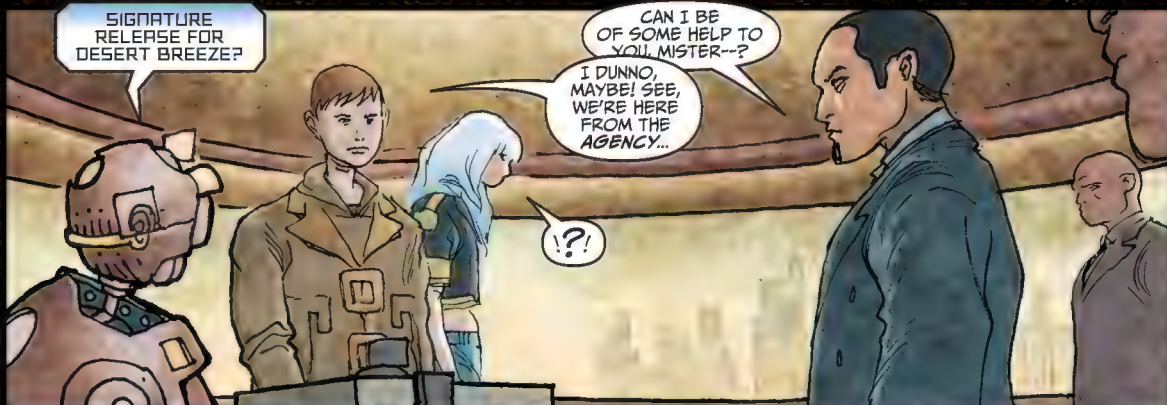


SIGNATURE
RELEASE FOR
DESERT BREEZE?

CAN I BE
OF SOME HELP TO
YOU, MISTER--?

I DUNNO,
MAYBE! SEE,
WE'RE HERE
FROM THE
AGENCY...

!?



AND WE NEED TO
SEE OBADIAH HORN ON
A MATTER OF SOME...
DELICACY.

IS THAT
SO? DID OUR
RECEPTIONIST
SEE YOUR I.D.,
MISTER...

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING...?

SIGNATURE
RELEASE FOR
DESERT
BREEZE?



YOU KNOW,
I SEEM TO HAVE
LOST MY I.D... S'FUNNY,
THOSE REPORTERS
FROM LIFE CAME HERE
AND LOST THEIRS
TOO... ALONG WITH
THEIR LIVES...*

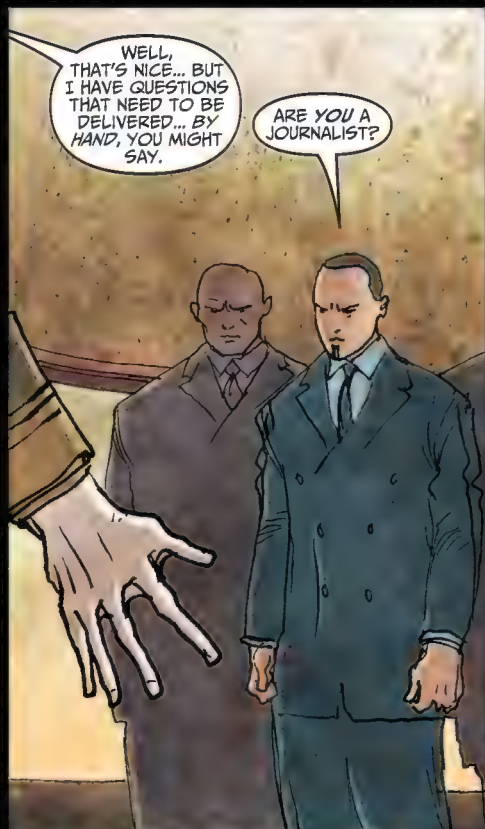
*See ELEPHANTMEN #6

HNH. YES.
THAT WAS... A
TRAGEDY.

SIGNATURE
RELEASE FOR
DESERT BREEZE?

I WILL
HAPPILY TALK
TO MISTER HORN
ON YOUR BEHALF.
THERE ARE NO
SECRETS BETWEEN
US. HE WAS VERY
DISTRESSED BY
THE DEATHS.





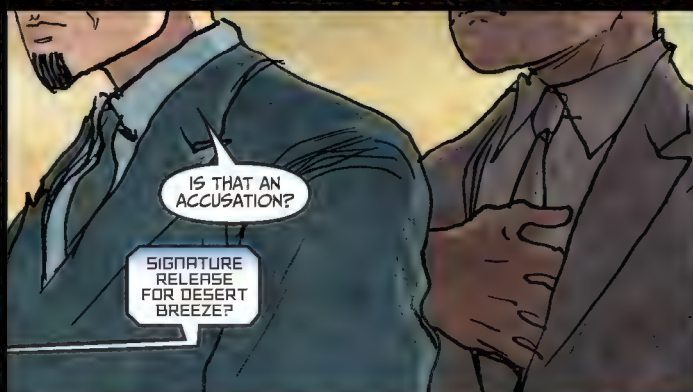
WELL, THAT'S NICE... BUT I HAVE QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE DELIVERED... BY HAND, YOU MIGHT SAY.

ARE YOU A JOURNALIST?



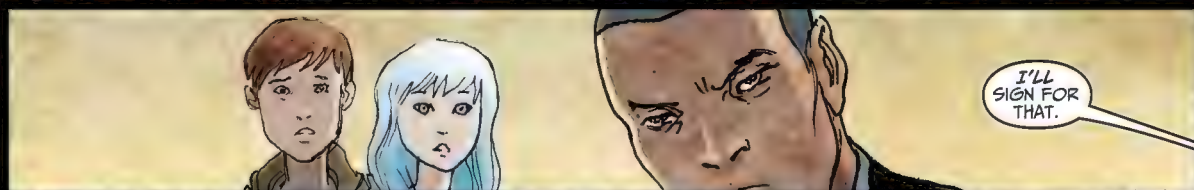
SIMM... LET'S GO!

THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH HORN INDUSTRIES LATELY. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT?



IS THAT AN ACCUSATION?

SIGNATURE
RELEASE
FOR DESERT
BREEZE?



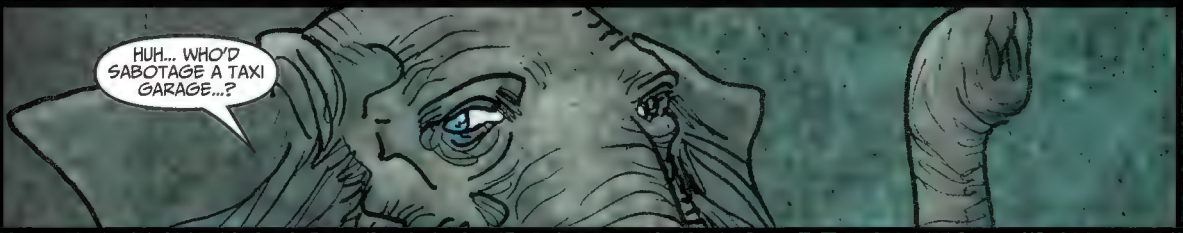
I'LL SIGN FOR THAT.



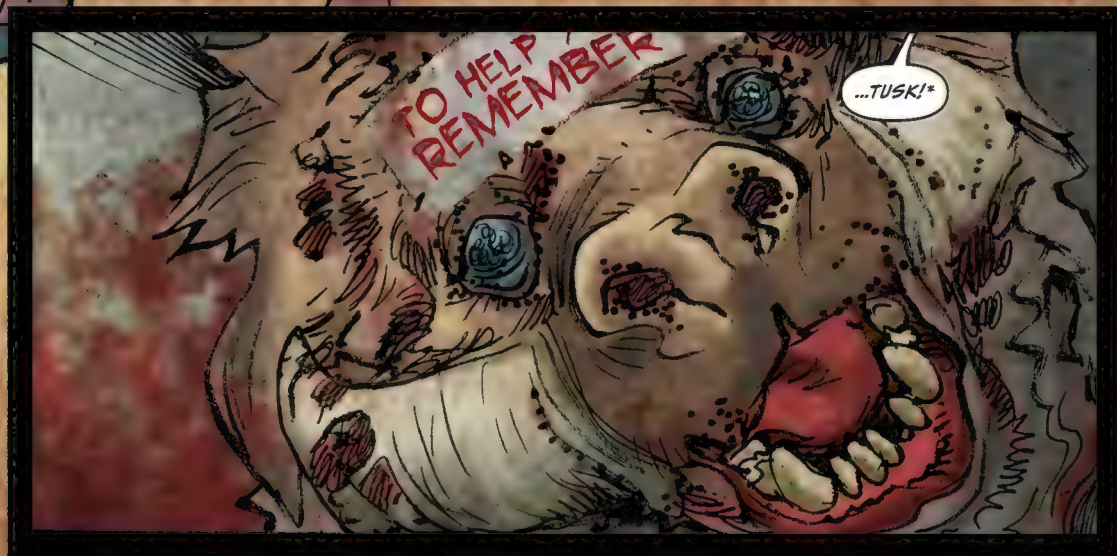
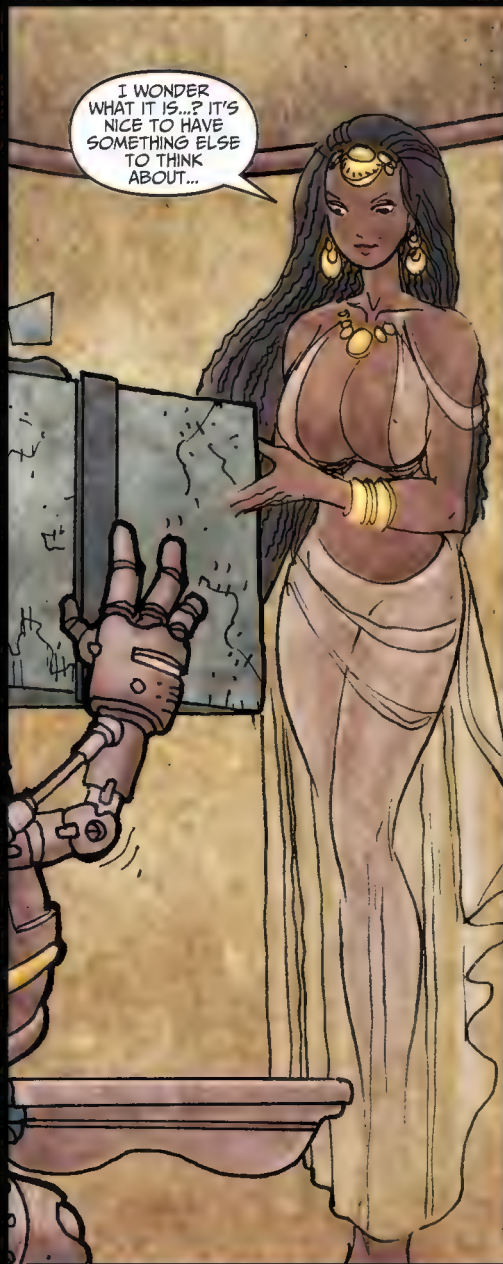
SAMUEL, I WAS CONCERNED. I SENSED YOU WERE TROUBLED OVER SOMETHING.

IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT HERE?















RUN,
VANITY! GET
AS FAR AWAY
FROM HERE AS
YOU CAN!

HOW DID THIS
HAPPEN?



WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?



YOU IDIOT.

WHAT -- ONE QUICK
KISS FROM SOME
STRANGER AND YOU
ABANDON ALL YOUR
RESPONSIBILITIES?

IDIOT.



WHAT WOULD
YOUR DAD HAVE
MADE OF THIS?



AND GRUENWALD AT
THE AGENCY -- YOU
THINK HE'S NOT GOING
TO HEAR ABOUT THIS?

GROW UP!



AND WHAT ABOUT HIP FLASK?
WHY WOULD HE WANT
TO KEEP YOU AS HIS ASSISTANT
AFTER THIS LITTLE EPISODE?

AHUH

AHUH

AHUH

HOW DID THIS
HAPPEN?



HIP...?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

UHHH...



YOU'RE
TOO LATE...
THE IMPERIUMITE
HAS BEEN
DELIVERED.



THE WHAT...?
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE TO
HIM?



"I HAVE SIMPLY RESTORED HIM..."

"THE IMPERIUMITE IS
ATTACHING ITSELF
TO HIS BRAINSTEM..."

ARRH...



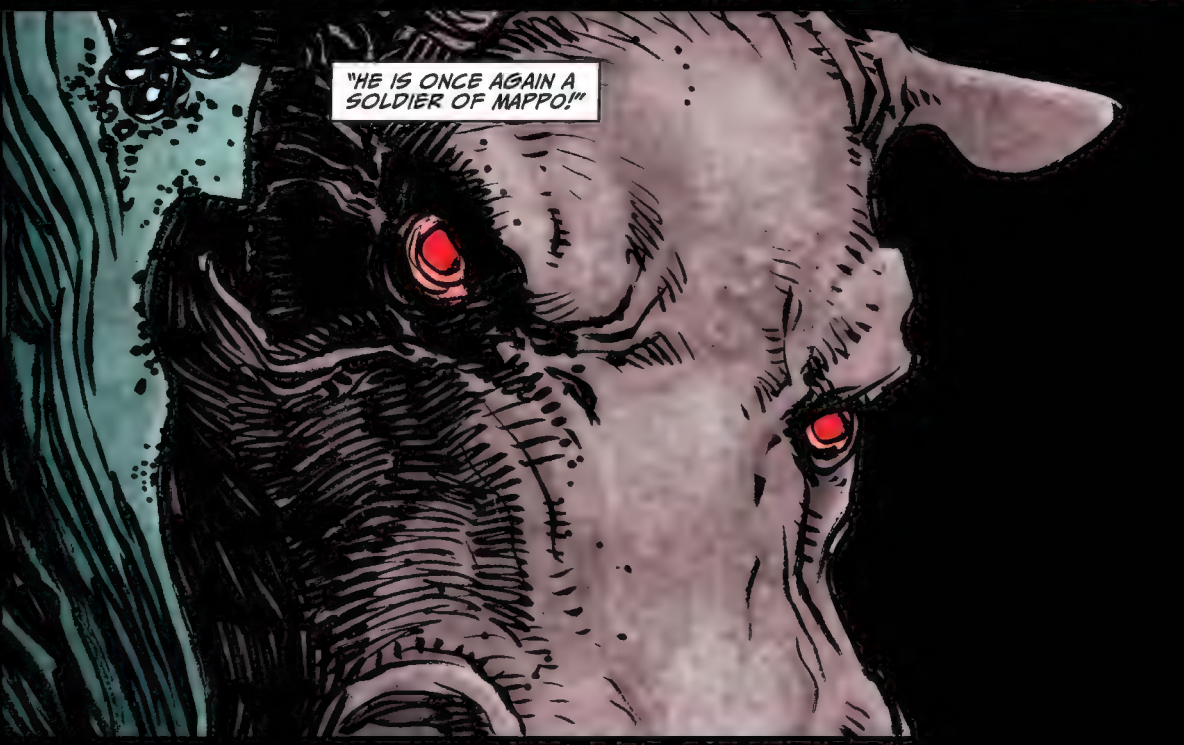
"RECALIBRATING HIS
NERVOUS SYSTEM..."



NO... HIP
PLEASE,
TALK TO
ME!

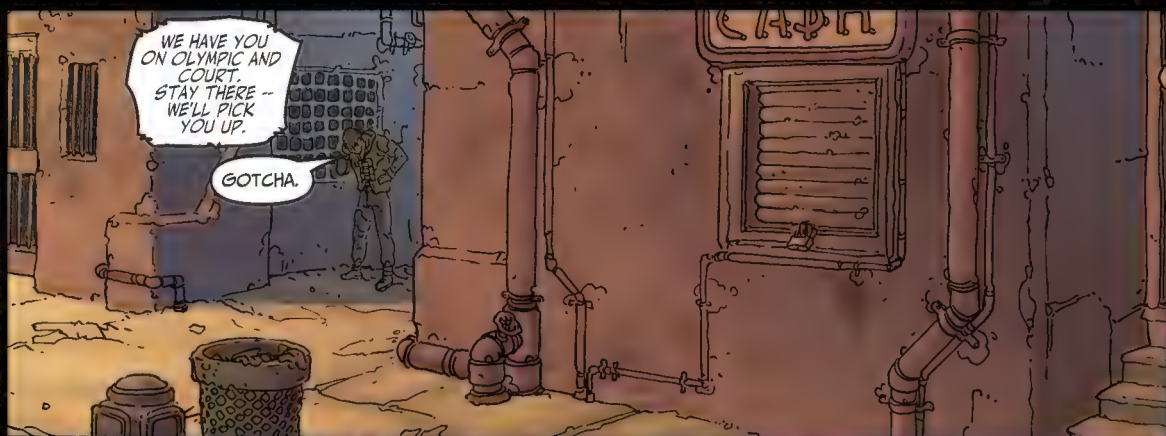
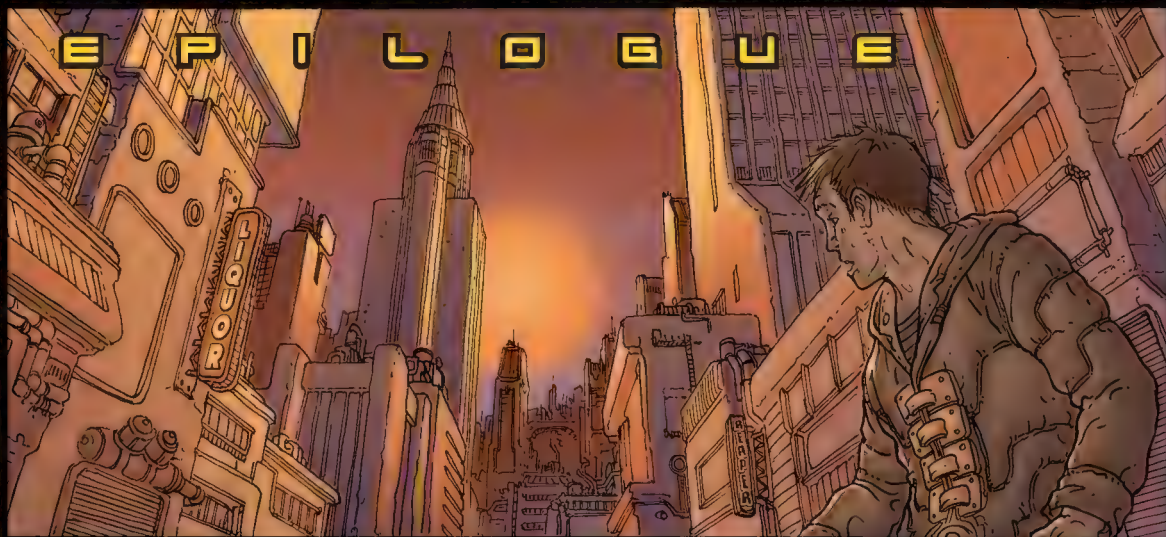


"AGENT FLASK IS NO LONGER
AN *EMASCULATED* SLAVE
OF EARTH'S GOVERNMENT.



"HE IS ONCE AGAIN A
SOLDIER OF MAPPO!"

To Be Continued...

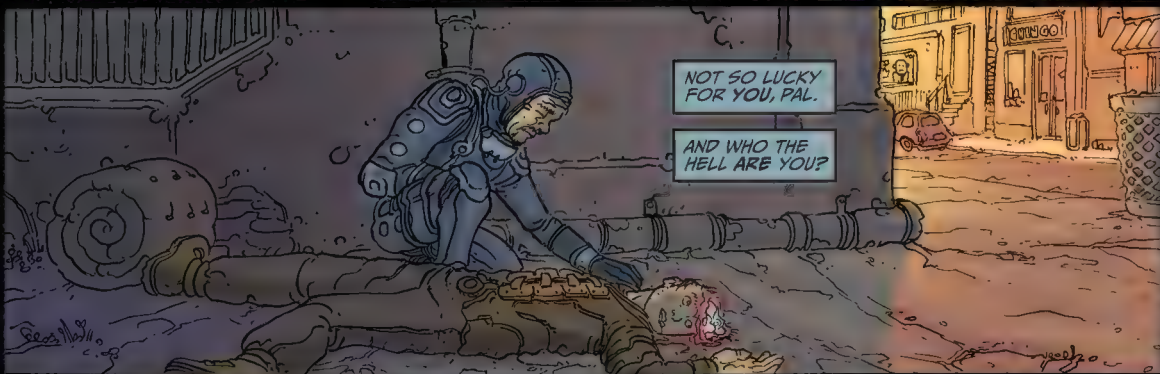
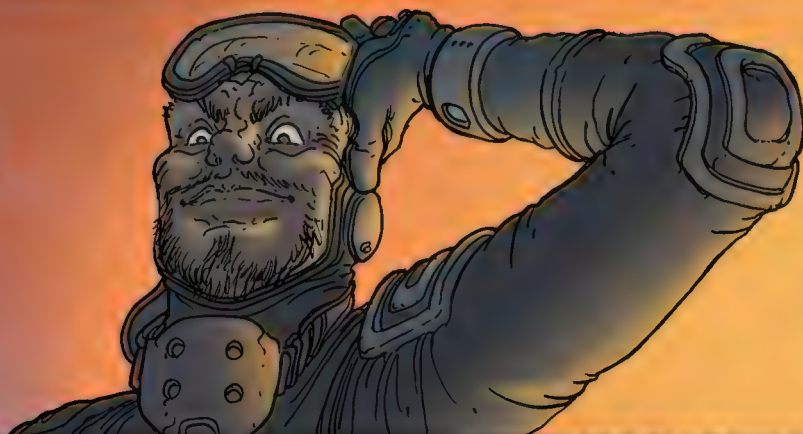


By Starkings & Chris Burnham • Colors by Gregory Wright



TEN MILLION.

LUCKY FOR ME
I WAS IN THE AREA.



NOT SO LUCKY
FOR YOU, PAL.

AND WHO THE
HELL ARE YOU?

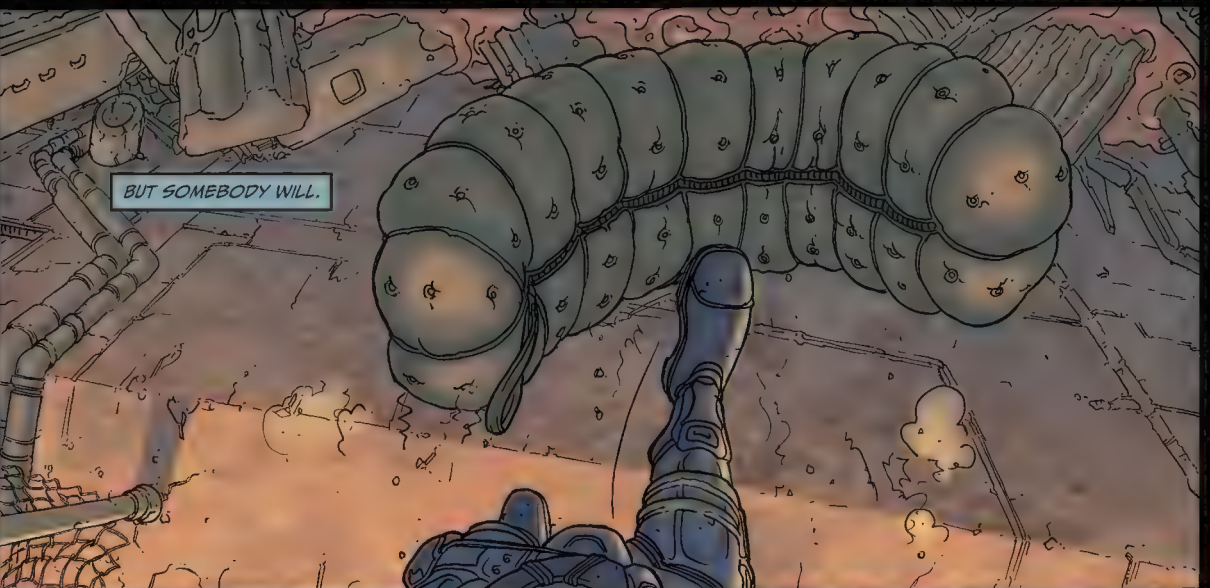


FUNNY, YOU DON'T
BLEED MUCH.

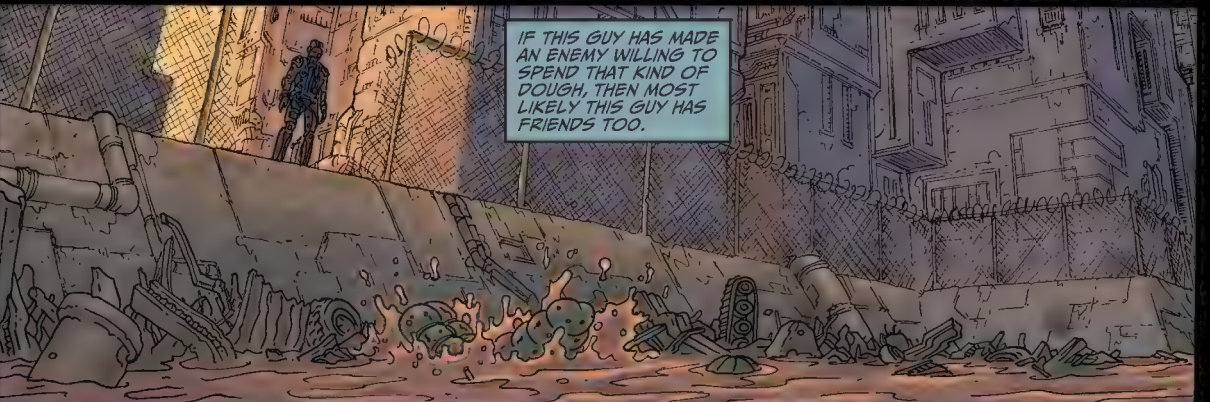


TEN MILLION. CASBAH JOE
RECKONS FOR THAT KIND
OF MONEY I DON'T GET
TO ASK QUESTIONS.

FINE.



BUT SOMEBODY WILL.



IF THIS GUY HAS MADE
AN ENEMY WILLING TO
SPEND THAT KIND OF
DOUGH, THEN MOST
LIKELY THIS GUY HAS
FRIENDS TOO.

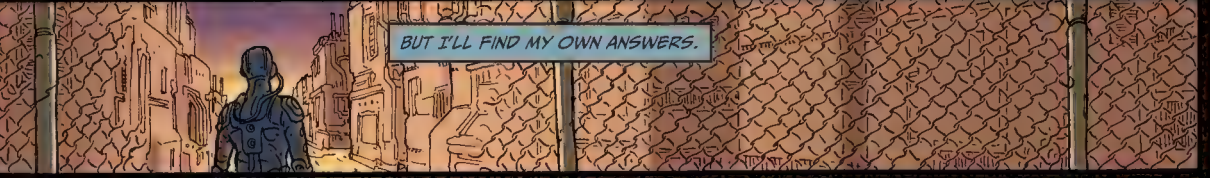


FRIENDS WITH MONEY.

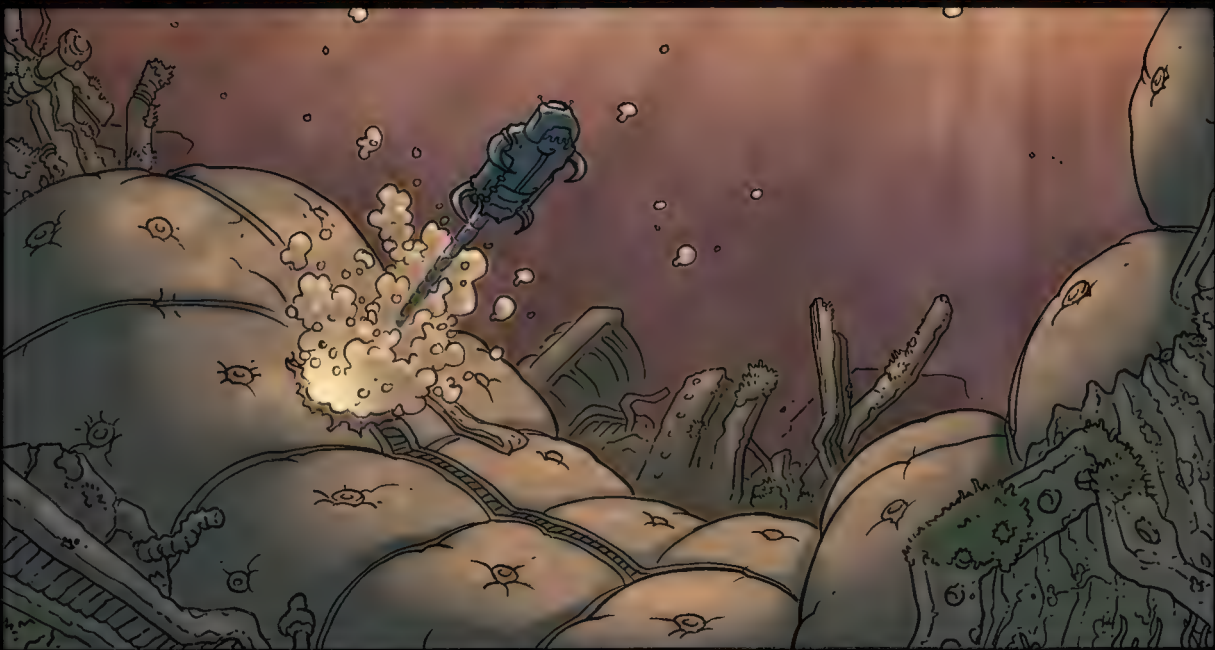
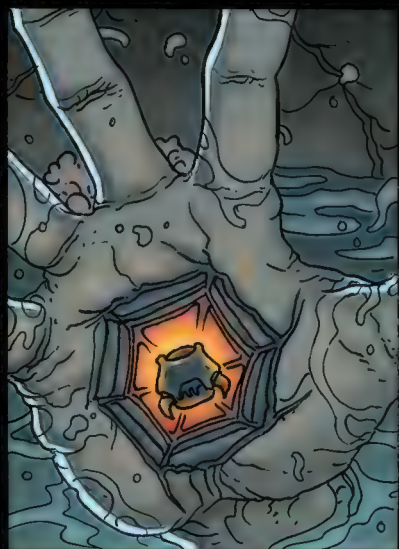
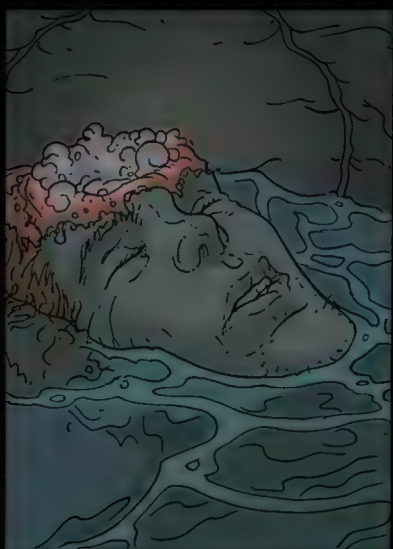
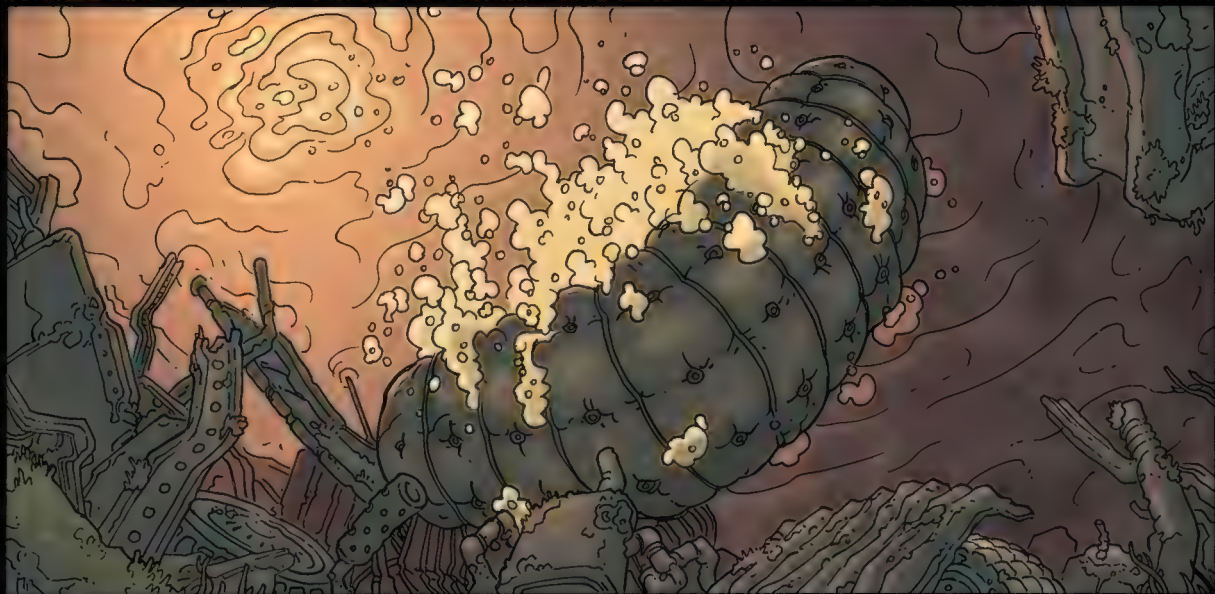
FRIENDS WHO WILL WANT ANSWERS.

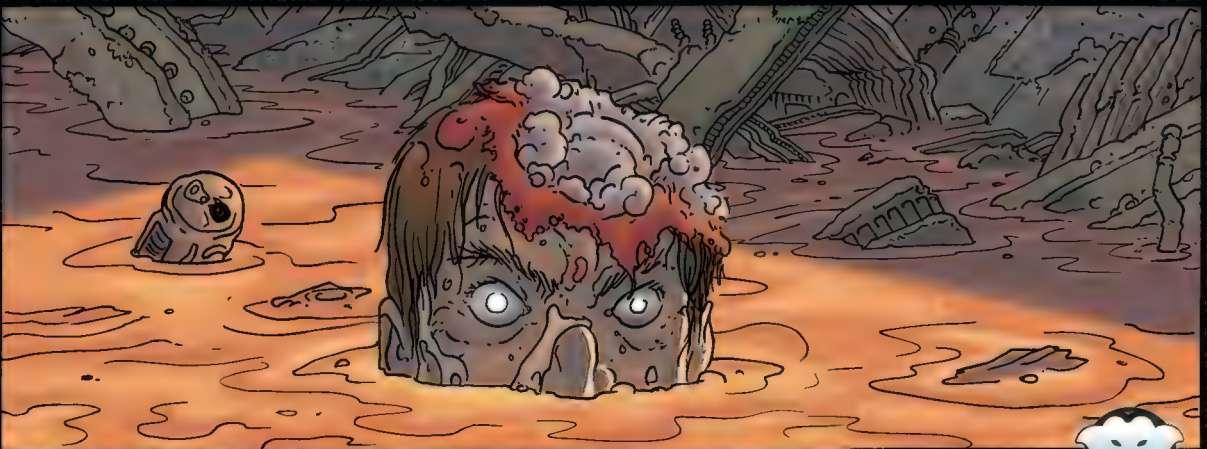
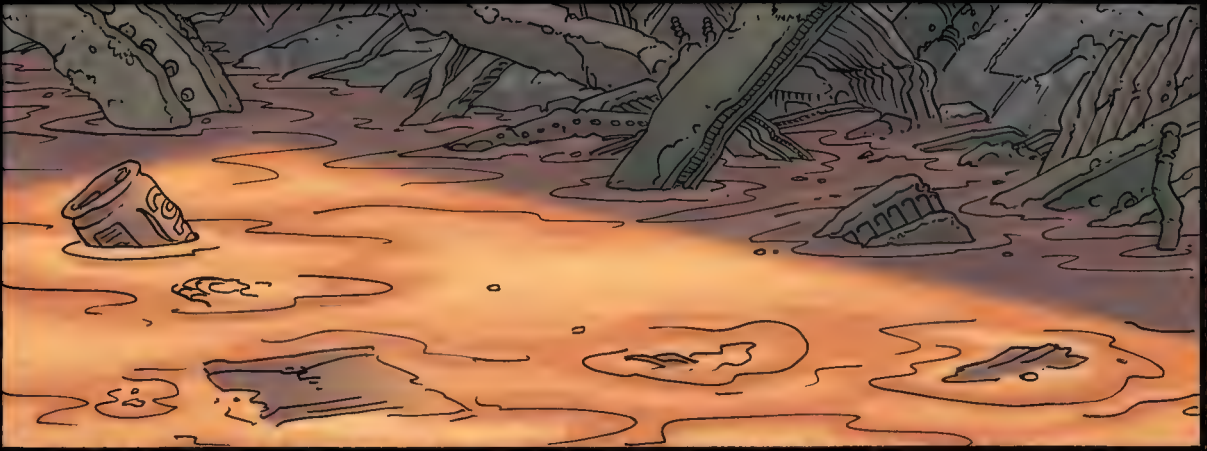
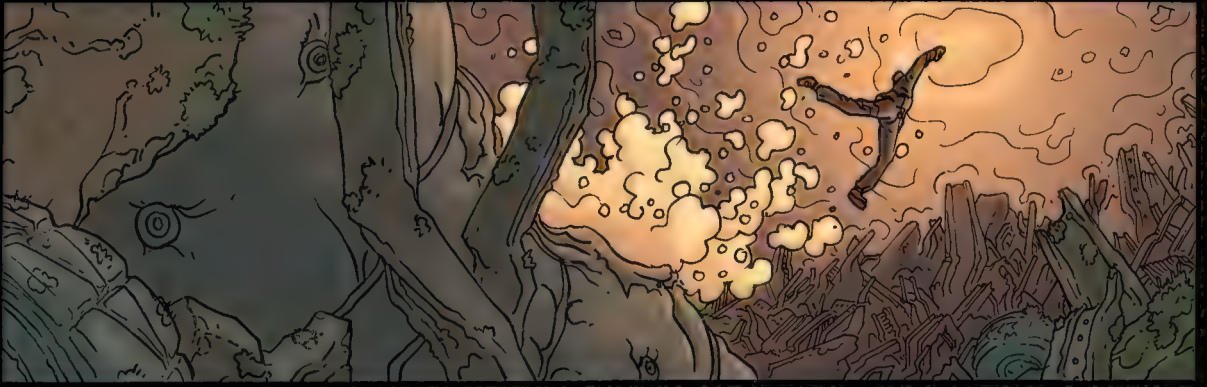
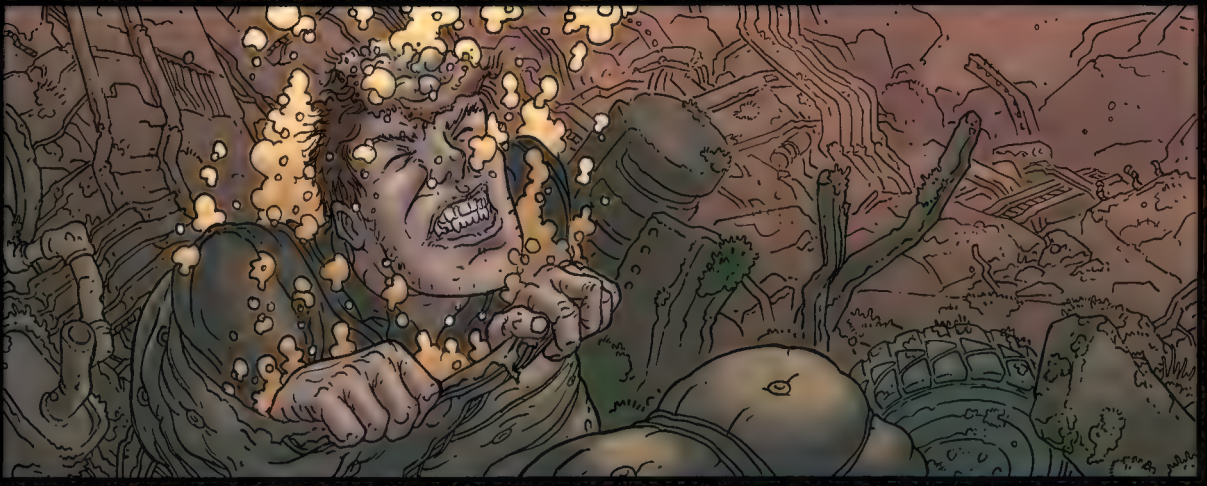


SO FOR TEN MILLION,
I DON'T ASK QUESTIONS.



BUT I'LL FIND MY OWN ANSWERS.





NIGHTTIME. MYSTERY CITY



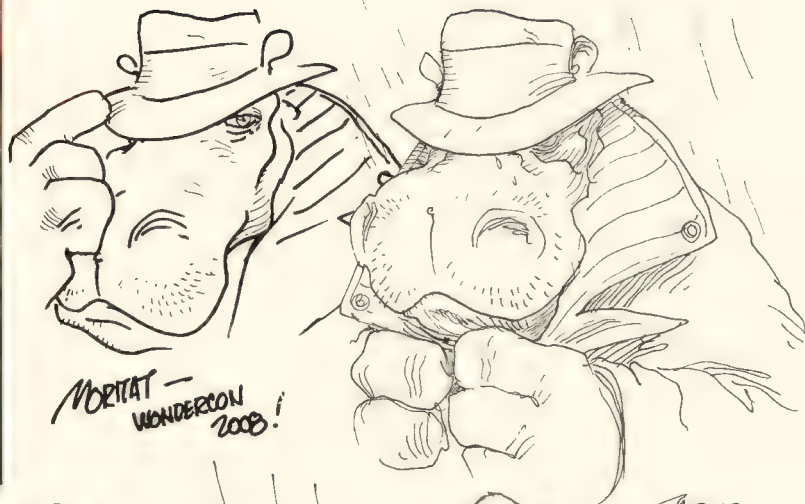


Roses and THORNS

Art by Moritat/Churchland, originally published in MONSTERS & DAMES 2009 Emerald City Comicon Artbook



© 2009 Emerald City Comicon Artbook



MORITAT -
WONDERCON 2008!

MORITAT.
WONDERCON '08



MORITAT
SAN DIEGO
COMIC CON
2002



MORITAT.
SAN DIEGO
2004.



MORITAT



Is it only 5 years since Moritat handed me a small, beautiful painting of HIP FLASK (top left) as a thanks for publishing SOLSTICE? I wonder if he realized then how many more times he'd be sketching Hip and the rest of the ELEPHANTMEN at shows all over the United States...



It's always interesting for me to watch Moritat sketching at shows. Years ago, Britain's BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE artist, Brian Bolland, told me that artists store up images in their brains waiting for the opportunity to get them out. He lamented that artists often don't get the chance to draw those images, simply because the writer they're working with never asks for them. Moritat gets to share some of his own ideas for ELEPHANTMEN at shows for fans, and sometimes JG and I are able to snatch scans of those images for posterity...





BORITAT!
SAN DIEGO COMIC CON 2007

BORITAT.
WONDERCON 2008

BORITAT.
WONDERCON 2007



BORITAT
WONDERCON 2007



HIP FLASK

INFORMATION AGENT

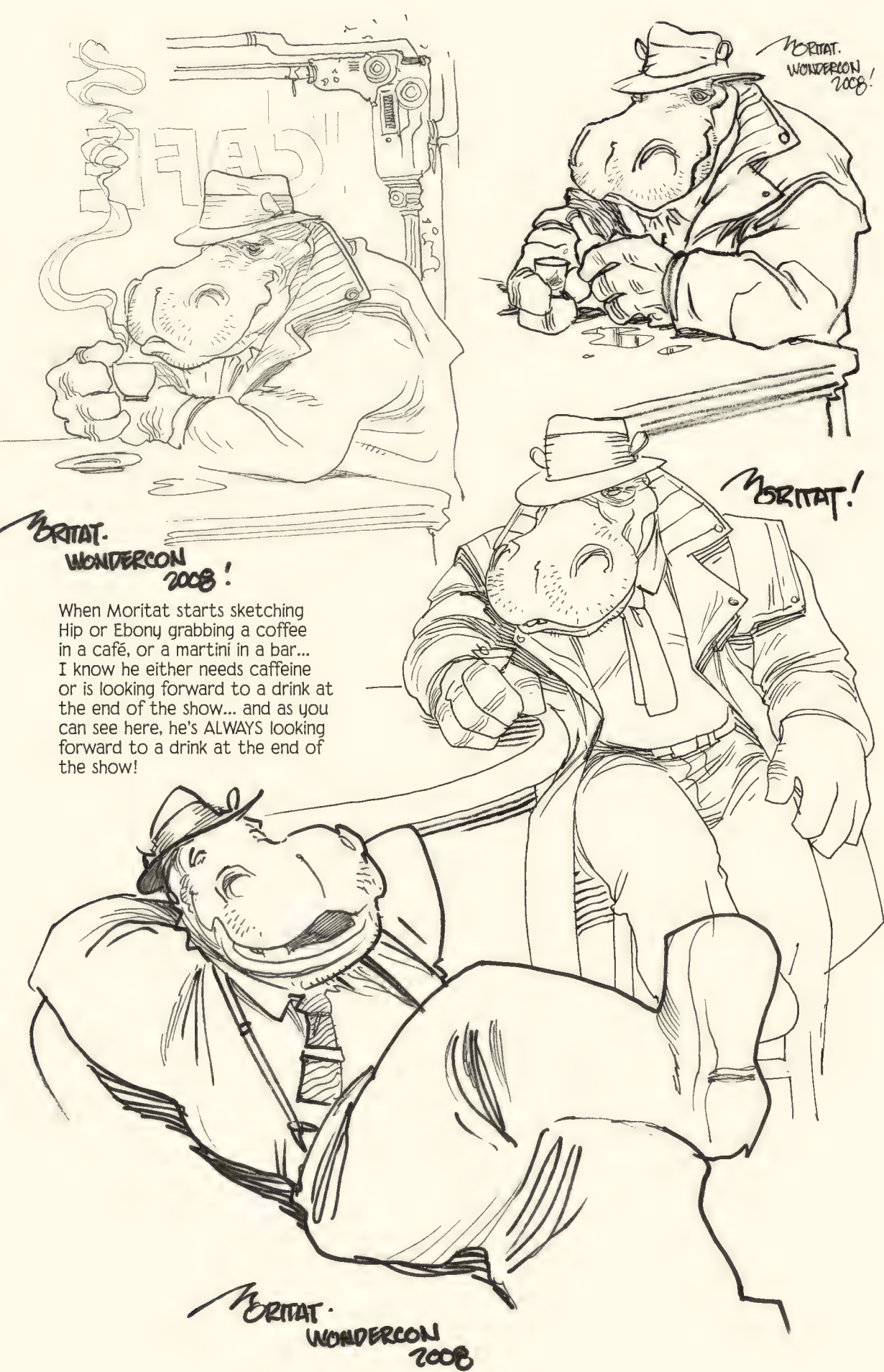


BORITAT -
WONDERCON 2008



BORITAT
SAN DIEGO COMIC CON 2007

BORITAT.



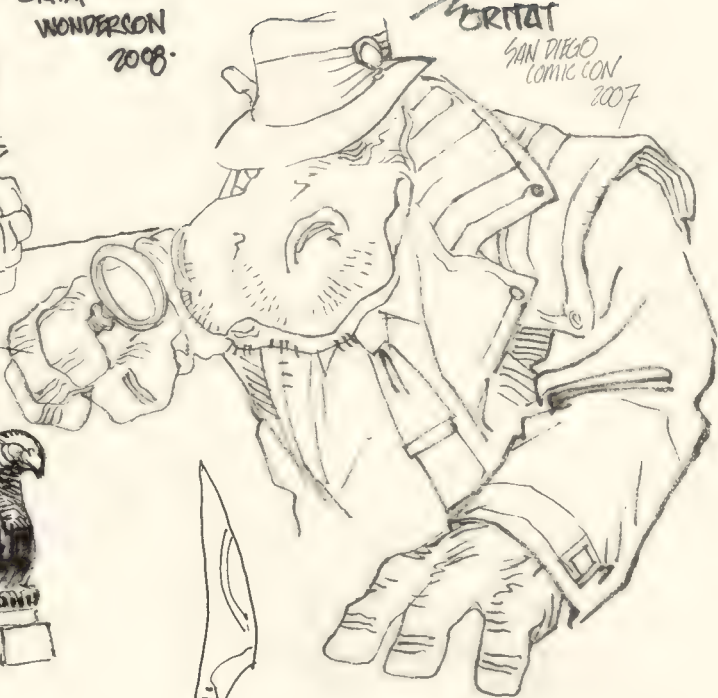
MORITAT.
WONDERCON
2008!

When Moritat starts sketching
Hip or Ebony grabbing a coffee
in a café, or a martini in a bar...
I know he either needs caffeine
or is looking forward to a drink at
the end of the show... and as you
can see here, he's ALWAYS looking
forward to a drink at the end of
the show!

MORITAT.
WONDERCON
2008



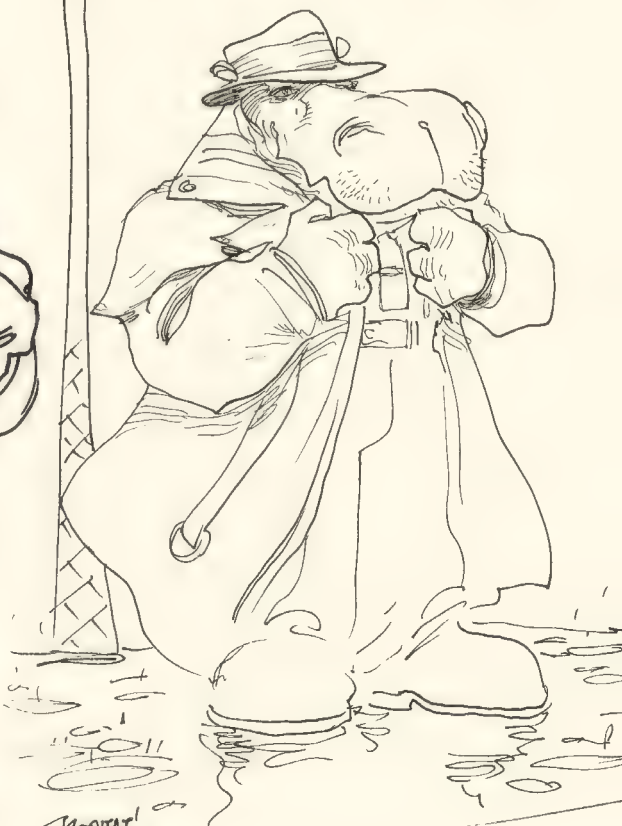
VERITAT -
WONDERCON
2008.



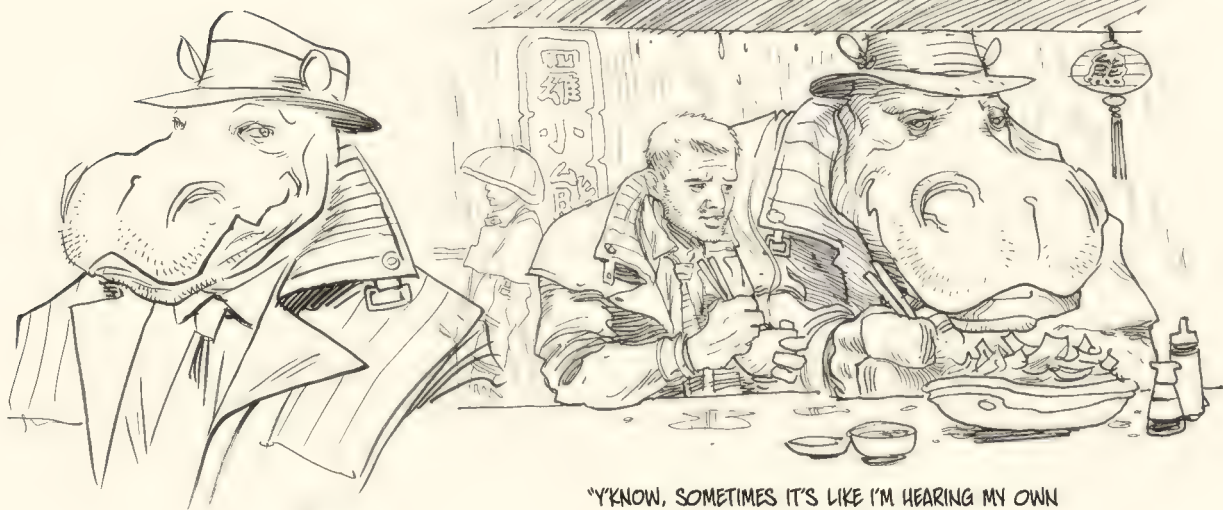
VERITAT
SAN DIEGO
COMIC CON
2007



VERITAT.
WONDERCON
2007.



VERITAT!
WONDERCON
2008!



MORTAT.
SAN DIEGO
2009.

"Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES IT'S LIKE I'M HEARING MY OWN
VOICE IN MY HEAD... OTHER TIMES -- NOTHING!"

MORTAT.
WONDERCON 2008!

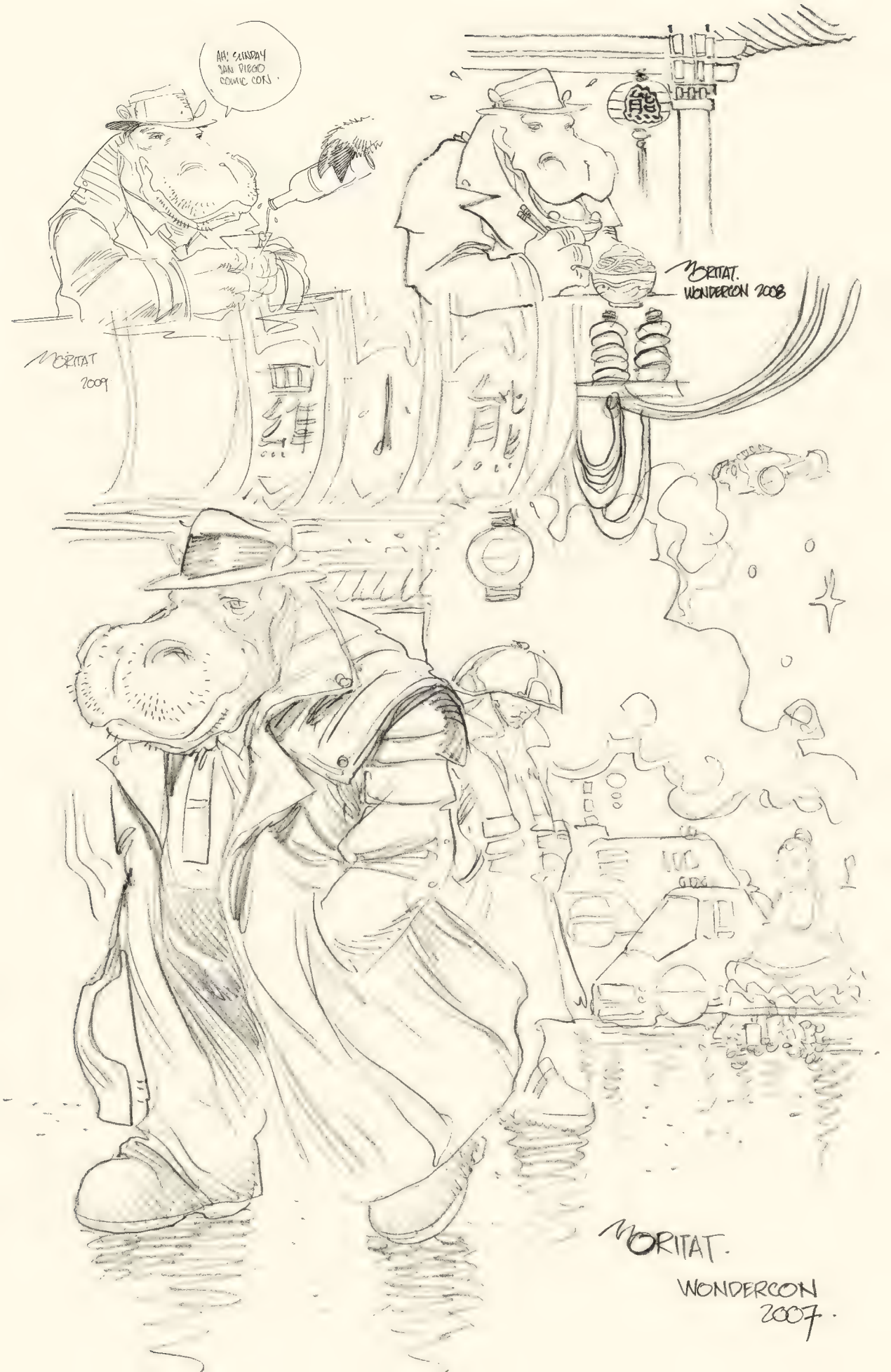


MORTAT.
SDCC 2009



MORTAT.
WIZARD
WORLD!
2007.

DEVIANART. MORTAT.



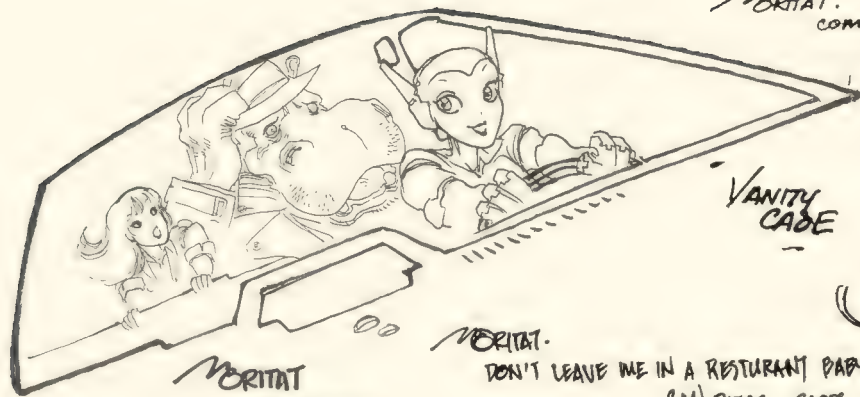
AM! SUNDAY
SAN DIEGO
COMIC CON.

MORTAT
2009

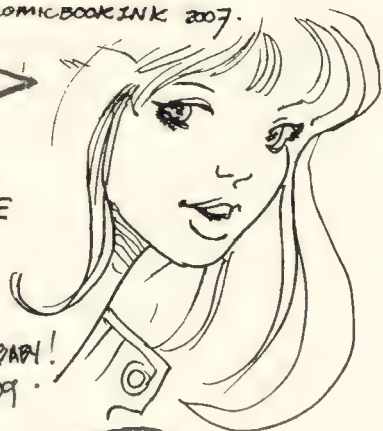
MORTAT.
WONDERCON 2008

MORTAT.

WONDERCON
2007.



VANITY
CAGE

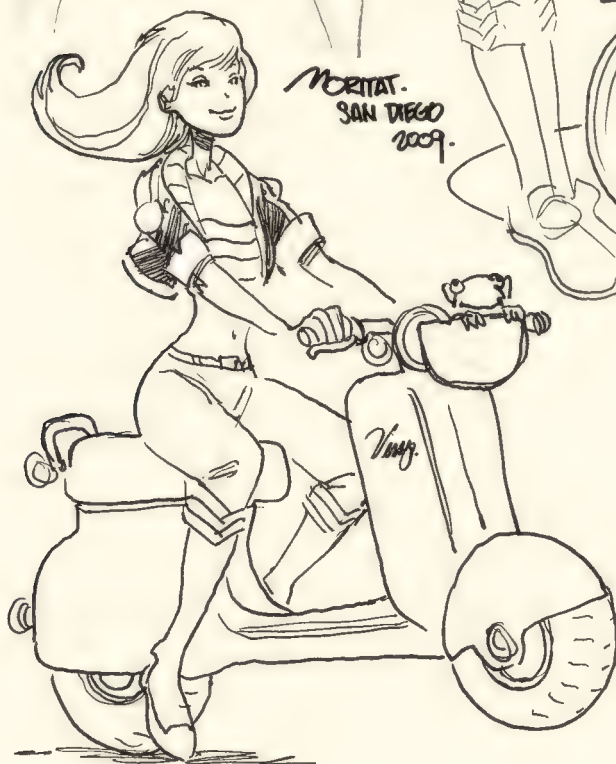
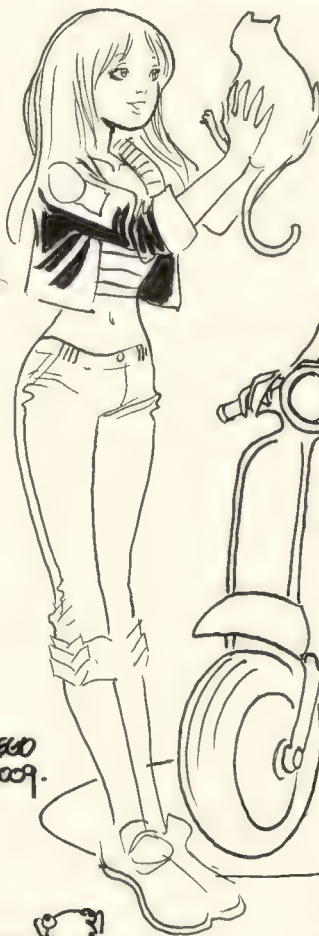


VERITAT

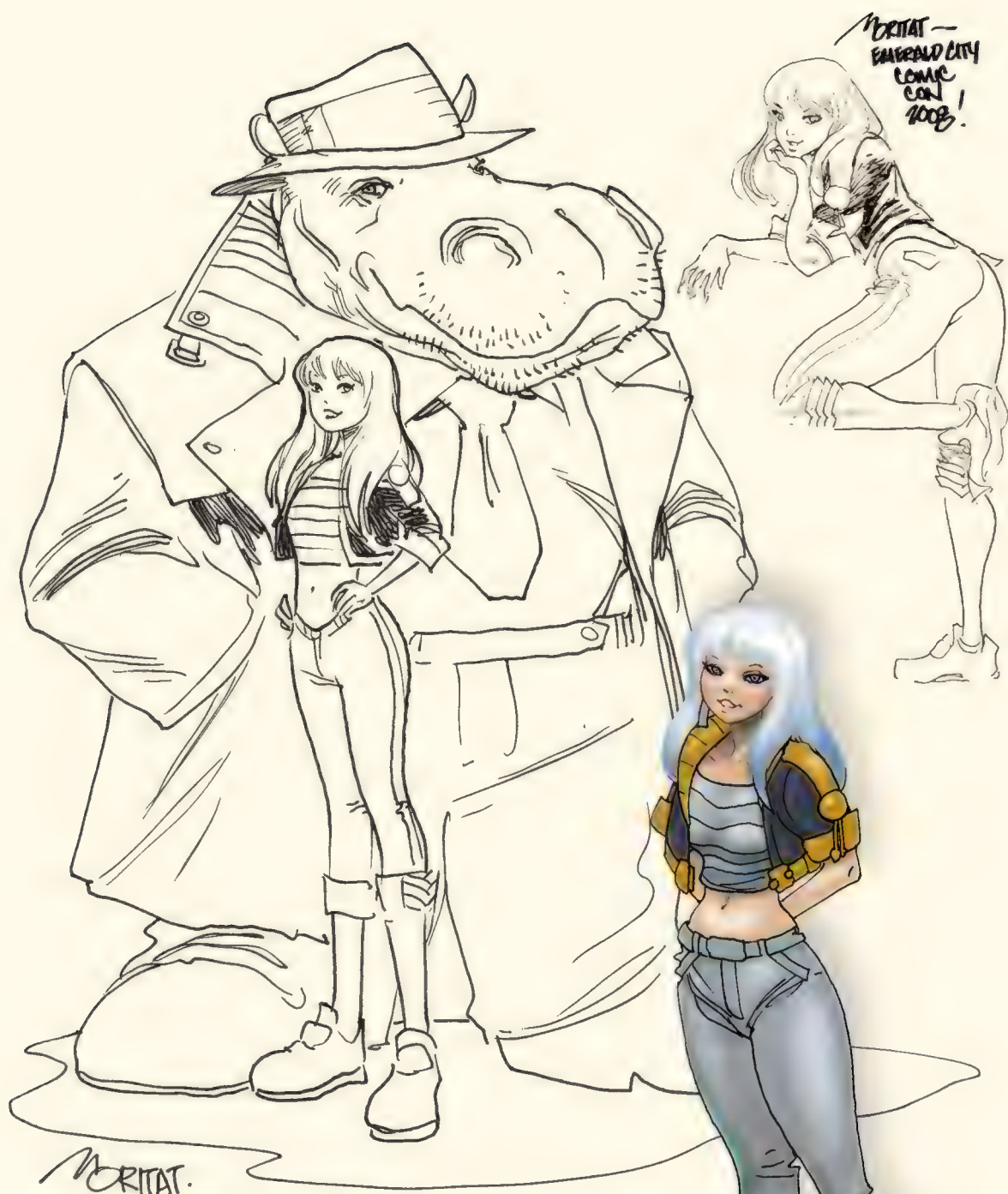
SAN DIEGO
COMIC CON
2007.

VERITAT.

DON'T LEAVE ME IN A RESTURANT BABY!
SAN DIEGO 2009.



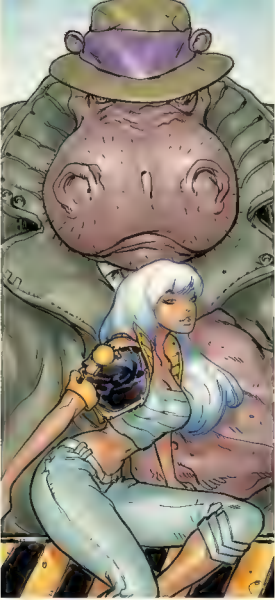
VERITAT WONDERCON 2007.



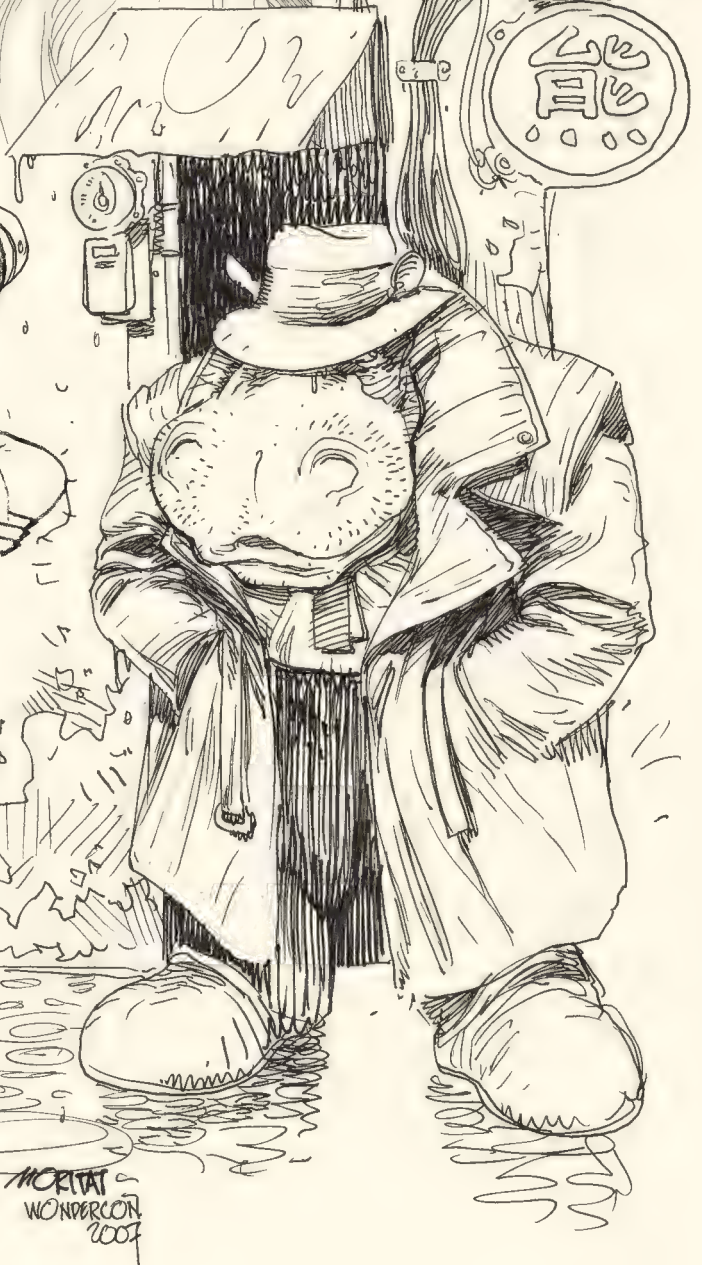
VANITY CASE

INFORMATION AGENT IN TRAINING

Moritat's grasp of character is never more evident than it is when he's drawing our lovely ladies... whether Vanity's holding a cat, riding her scooter or enjoying a bowl of noodles, Moritat perfectly captures her playful innocence and joie de vivre. The colour figures you see in this sketchbook were created for pre-publicity when ELEPHANTMEN was first announced.

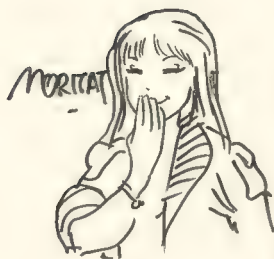


MORITAT
WIZARD
WORLD
2007

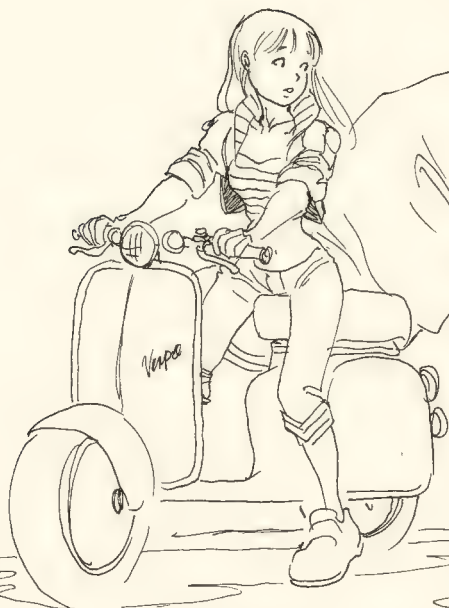


MORITAT
WONDERCON
2007

I've always imagined Hip Flask's relationship with Vanity as being very protective. Vanity has a big crush on Hip and Hip has a crush on her, but they both know that neither one of them will ever act on it. Well, that's what they THINK! Heh, but what do THEY know?



MORTAT.
WIZARD WORLD
2007



MORTAT WONDERCON 2008!

When I was young I used to enjoy the adventures of HARRIS TWEED, SPECIAL AGENT by John Ryan, in my brother's EAGLE comics. Harris Tweed is actually a special type of fabric made of soft wool from the Outer Hebrides, but Ryan repurposed the name for his character. You might find the one collection of the HARRIS TWEED series from the '90s on Amazon.



I've always loved a good play on words, and came up with HIP FLASK, INFORMATION AGENT in homage to Ryan... When I needed the name for a sidekick for Hip, VANITY CASE was the only logical option. John Ryan passed away in 2009. He also created the children's TV series and books featuring CAPTAIN PUGWASH. Hunt them down on Amazon.co.uk



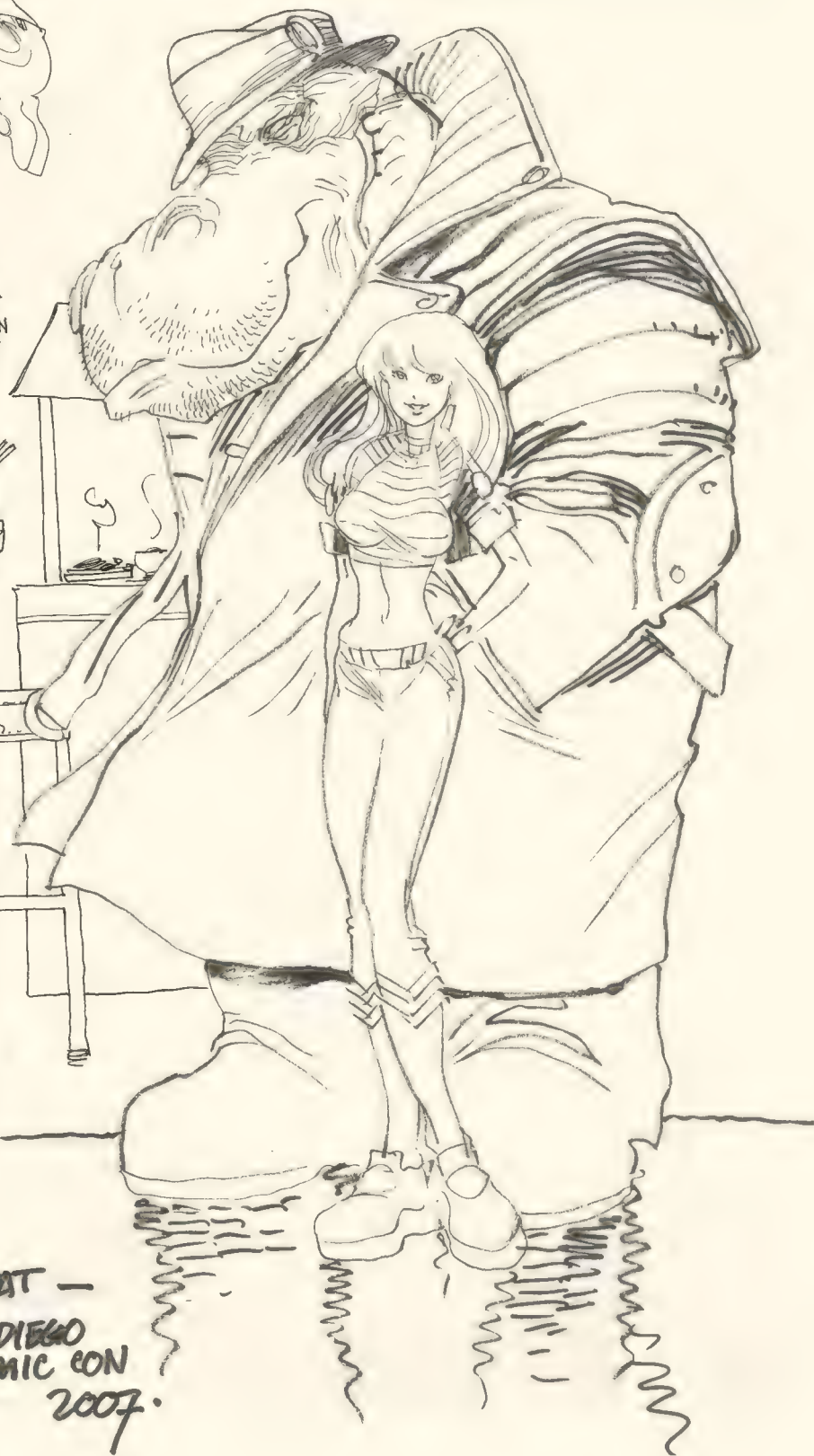
MORITAT
2008

→ SIGNED 2009

MORITAT -
WONDERCON
2007



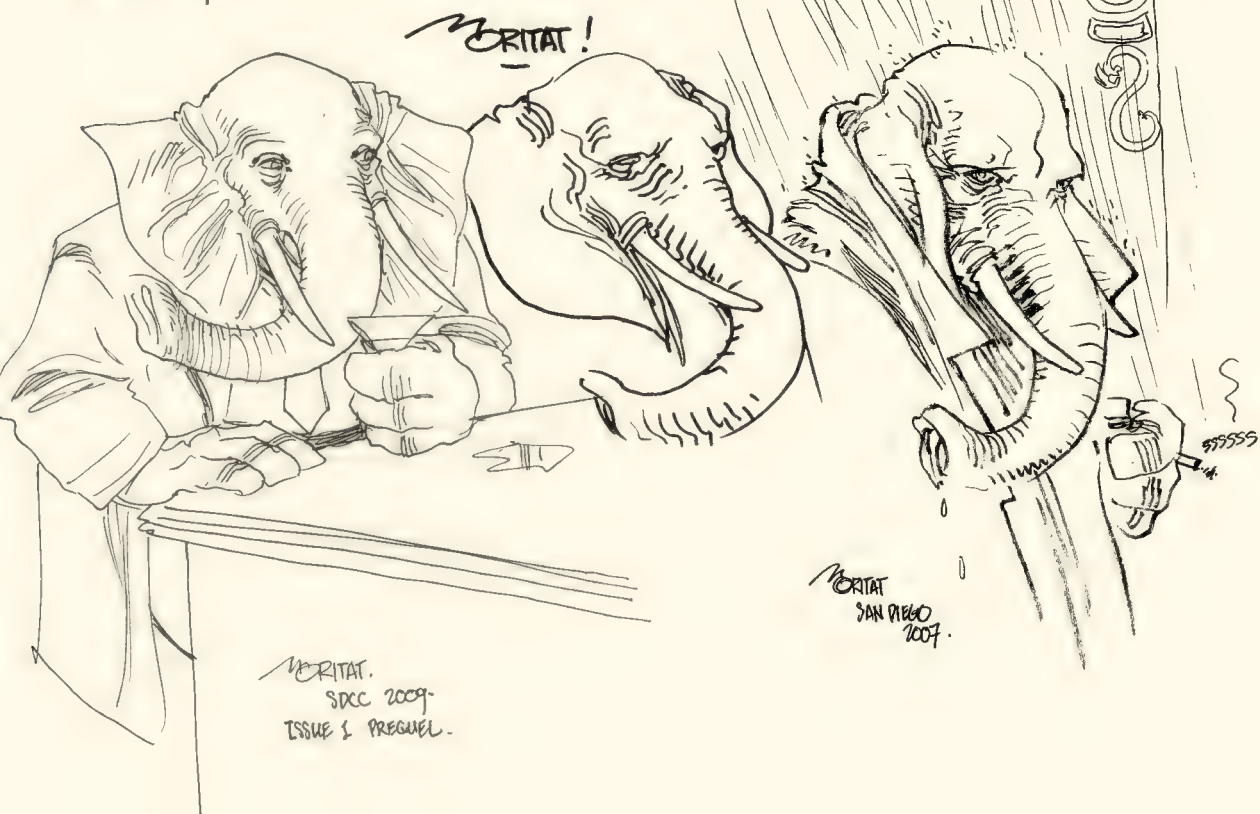
MORITAT -
SAN DIEGO
COMIC CON
2007.





MORTAT.
WONDERCON 2009.

MORTAT.
SDCC 2009.



MORTAT!

MORTAT
SAN DIEGO
2007.

MORTAT.
SDCC 2009.
ISSUE 1: PREGUELO.

MORITAT
SAN DIEGO 2009

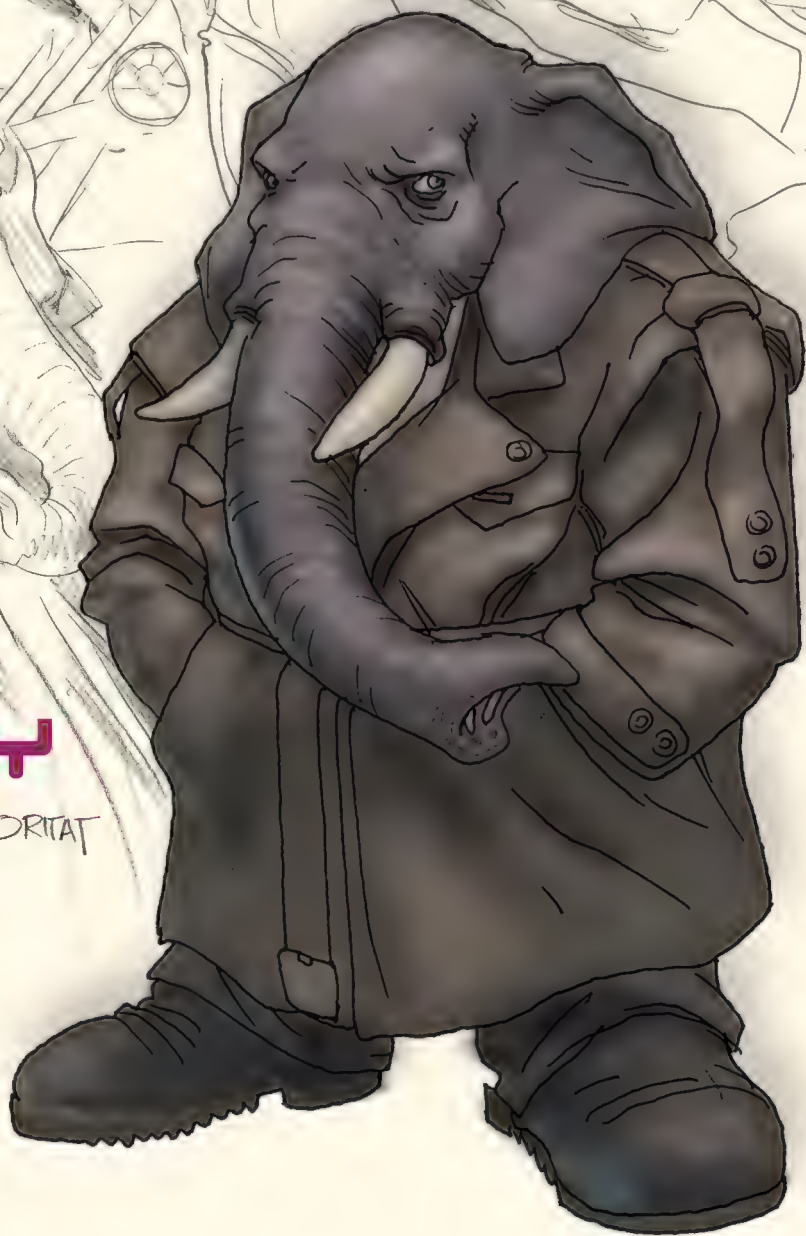
羅小能

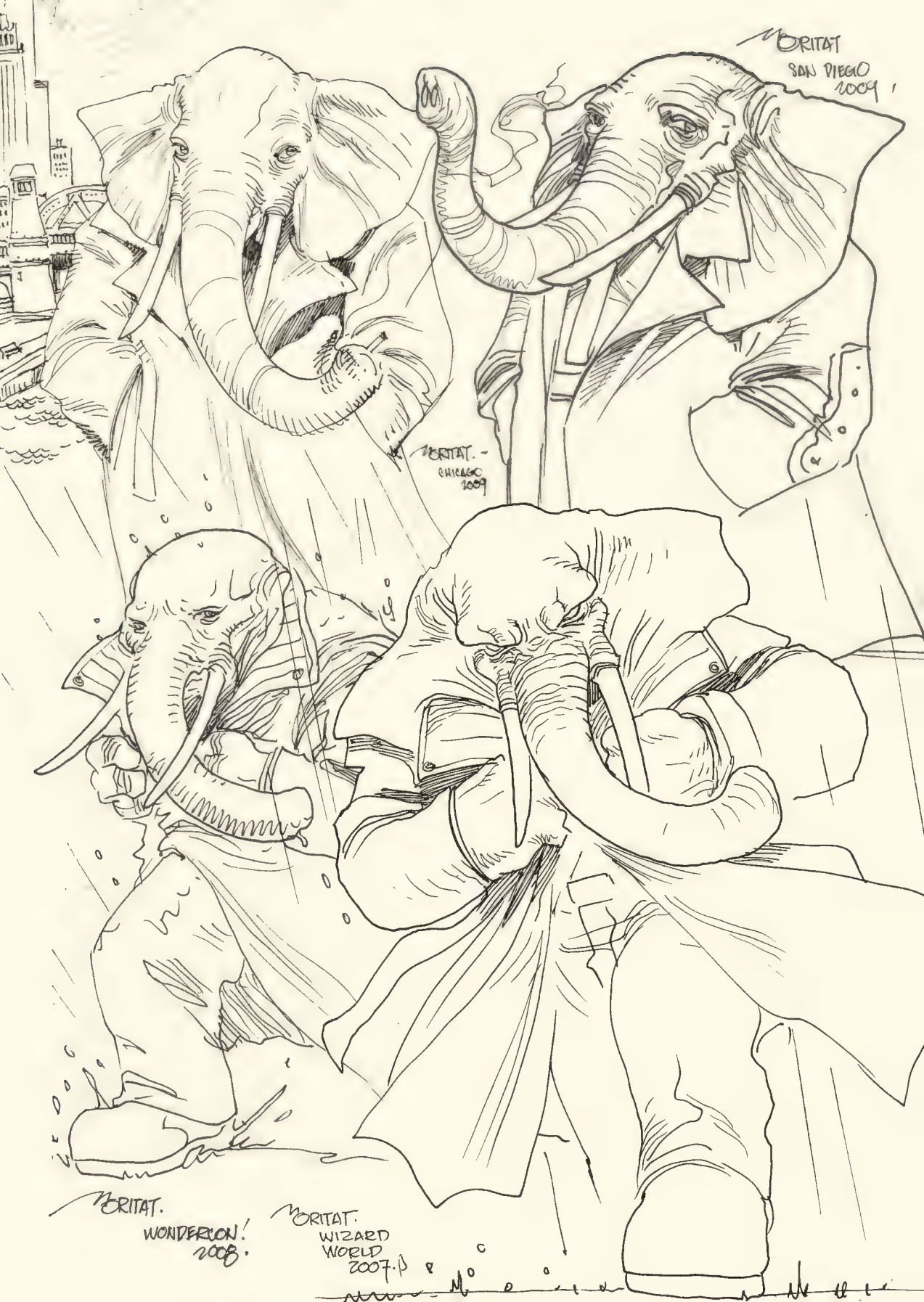
EBONY HIDE

MORITAT

INFORMATION AGENT

When ELEPHANTMEN began in 2006, I had no idea how much it would feature EBONY HIDE, who was very much a minor character in the HIP FLASK series. Moritat gave him a sense of pathos and tragedy that makes him irresistible to girls, which, of course, are qualities he likes to think he possesses himself.



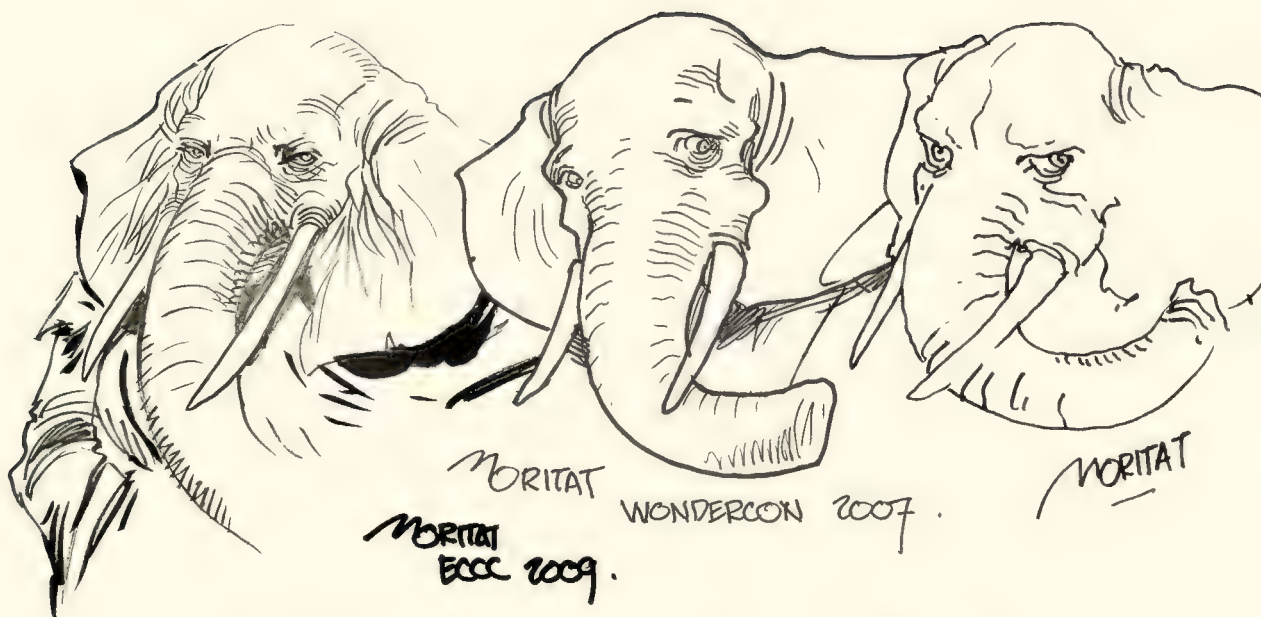


BRITAT
SAN DIEGO
2009

BRITAT -
CHICAGO
2009

BRITAT.
WONDERCON!
2008.

BRITAT.
WIZARD
WORLD
2007.



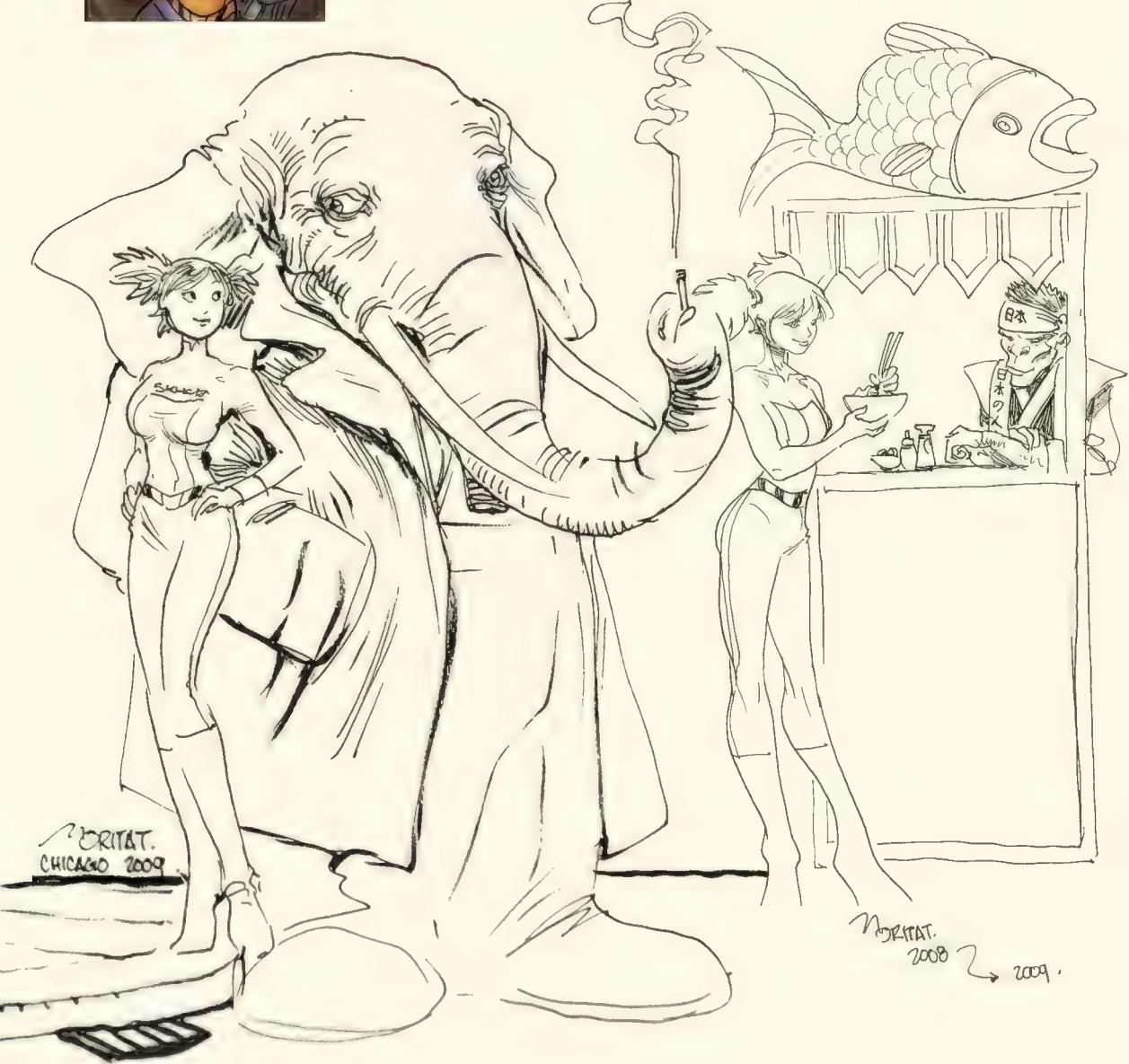
NORITAT
WONDERCON 2007.
NORITAT
ECCC 2009.

NORITAT



NORITAT.
WIZARD WORLD LA!
2007.

NORITAT 2008



My good friend, Ian Churchill suggested that Ebony and Miki could support their own mini-series... Only if YOU draw it Ian, me grate mate!



MIKI

SKY CAB PILOT

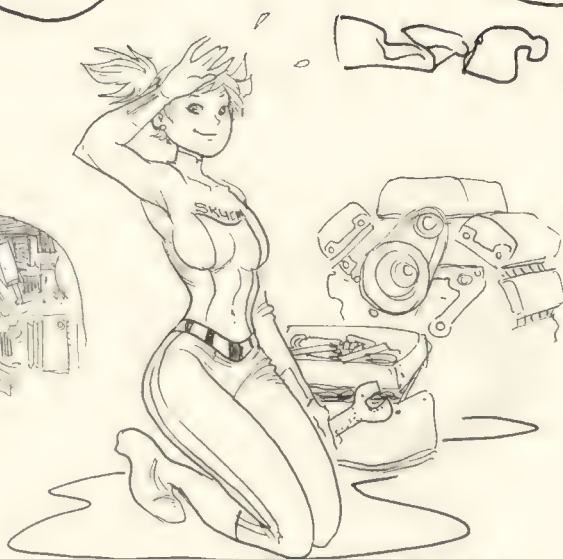
The voluptuous and sexually confident MIKI is another character who seemed to jump out of the supporting cast and demand centre stage.



MORITAT
SAN DIEGO COMIC CON 2007.



MORITAT.
WONDERCON 2008.



MORITAT
SAN DIEGO COMIC CON
NOT LETTERED BY COMICRAFT 2007.

MORITAT.
WINDY CITY
COMIC CON
2009.



Miki is certainly very easy on the eye in Moritat's sketches... No wonder there was a fire at SKYCAB 5!



MORITAT

@WONDERCON
2007

TO -
AMERCOISE
HAPPY SAN DIEGO COMIC CON

MORITAT
2008

I like to think
that these
sketches of HORN
reveal Moritat's
belief that financial
success means having
to spend less time
walking in the rain, and
more time indoors with
a smart and gorgeous
woman!

**OBADIAH
HORN**
TYCOON

MORITAT

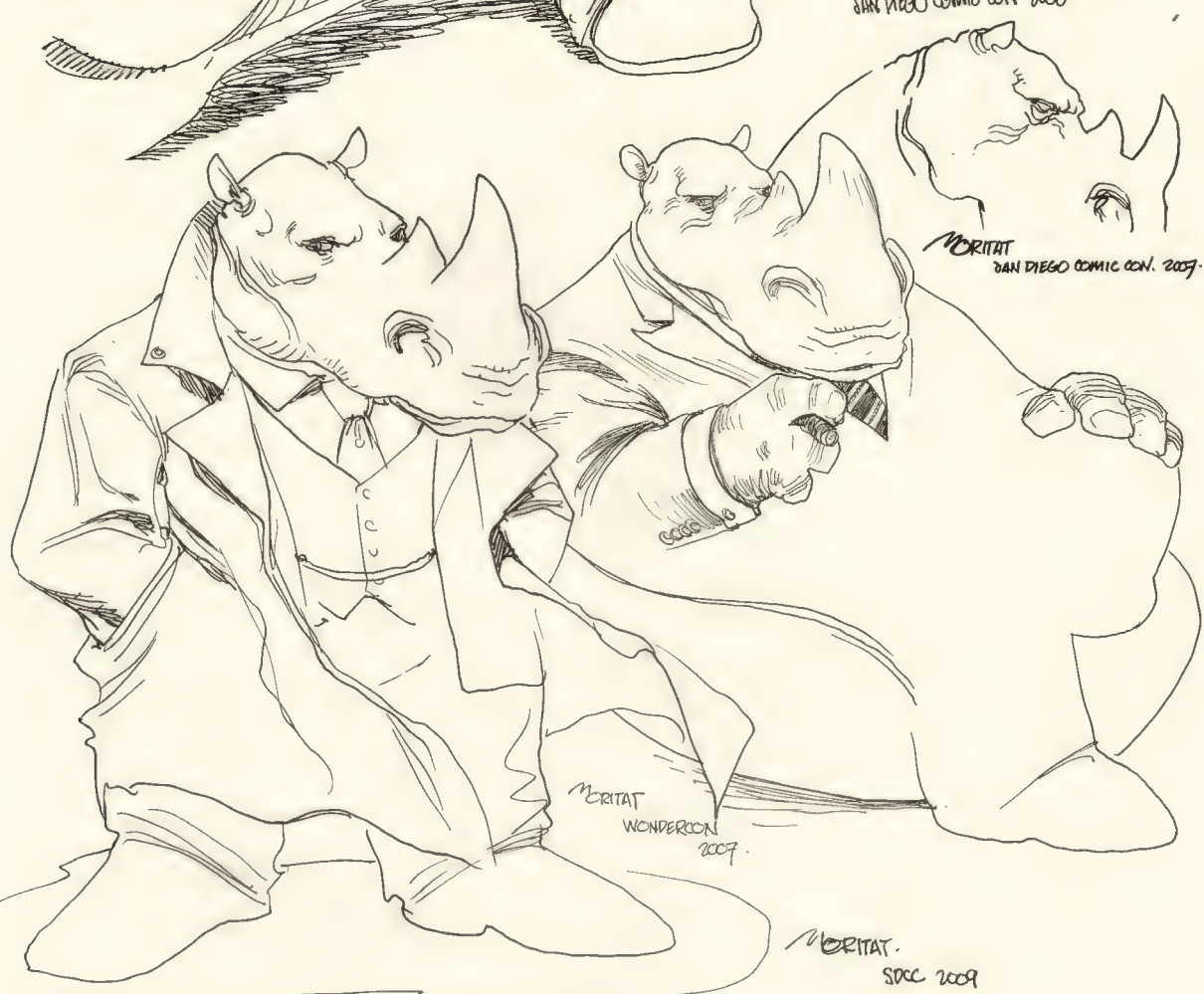
MORTAT
SDCC 2009.

MORTAT
SAN DIEGO
COMIC CON
2007.





ORITAT
SAN DIEGO COMIC CON 2007



ORITAT
SAN DIEGO COMIC CON 2007

ORITAT
WONDERCON 2007

ORITAT
SDCC 2009



ORTAT

SAN DIEGO COMIC CON 2008.

ORTAT

SAN DIEGO COMIC CON 2007



ORTAT

WIZARDWORLD LA!
2007.



TO NOVA

ORTAT.

WONDERCON 2008!



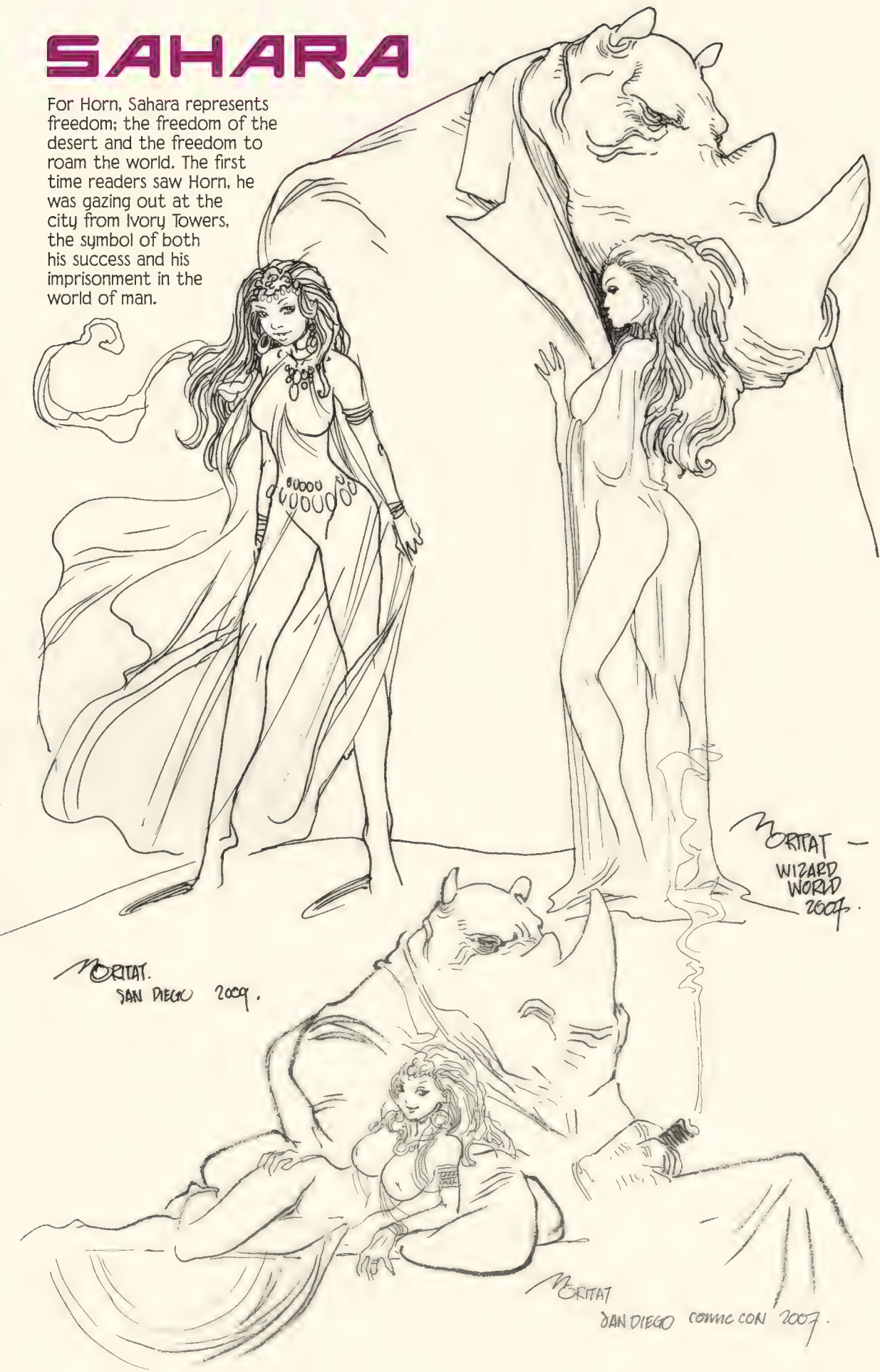
This is one of my favourite of Moritat's sketches of Horn and Sahara, it's composition reminds me of Klimt's "The Kiss" which is the perfect symbol of their relationship -- whereas Hip is clearly the protector in his relationship with Vanity, Sahara is the real protector in her relationship with Horn.



I'm often asked if Sahara and Horn are able to consummate their relationship, and while I'm sure they may very well do so, I don't think their love is about sex so much as it's about hope.

SAHARA

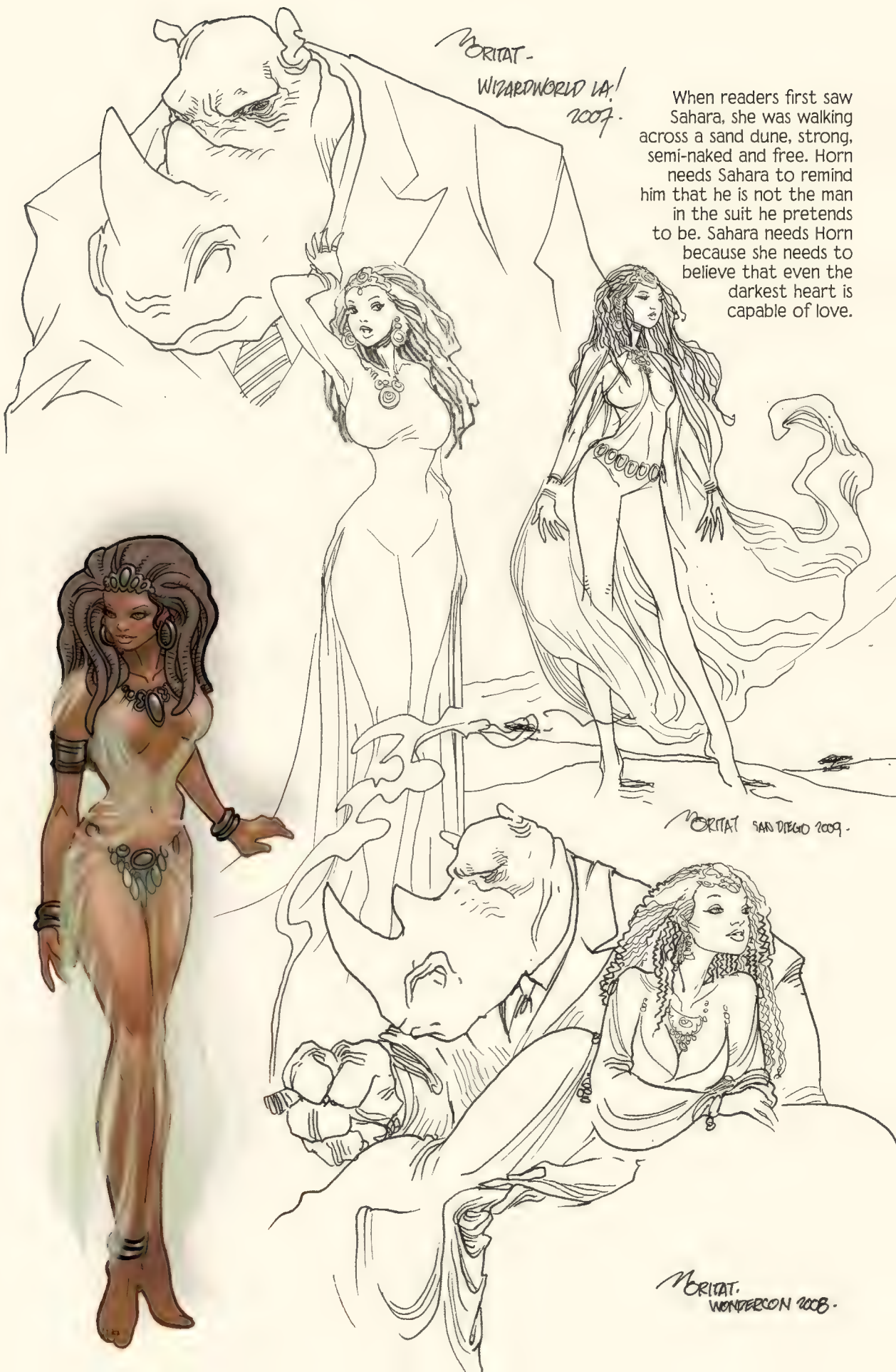
For Horn, Sahara represents freedom; the freedom of the desert and the freedom to roam the world. The first time readers saw Horn, he was gazing out at the city from Ivory Towers, the symbol of both his success and his imprisonment in the world of man.



MORITAT -

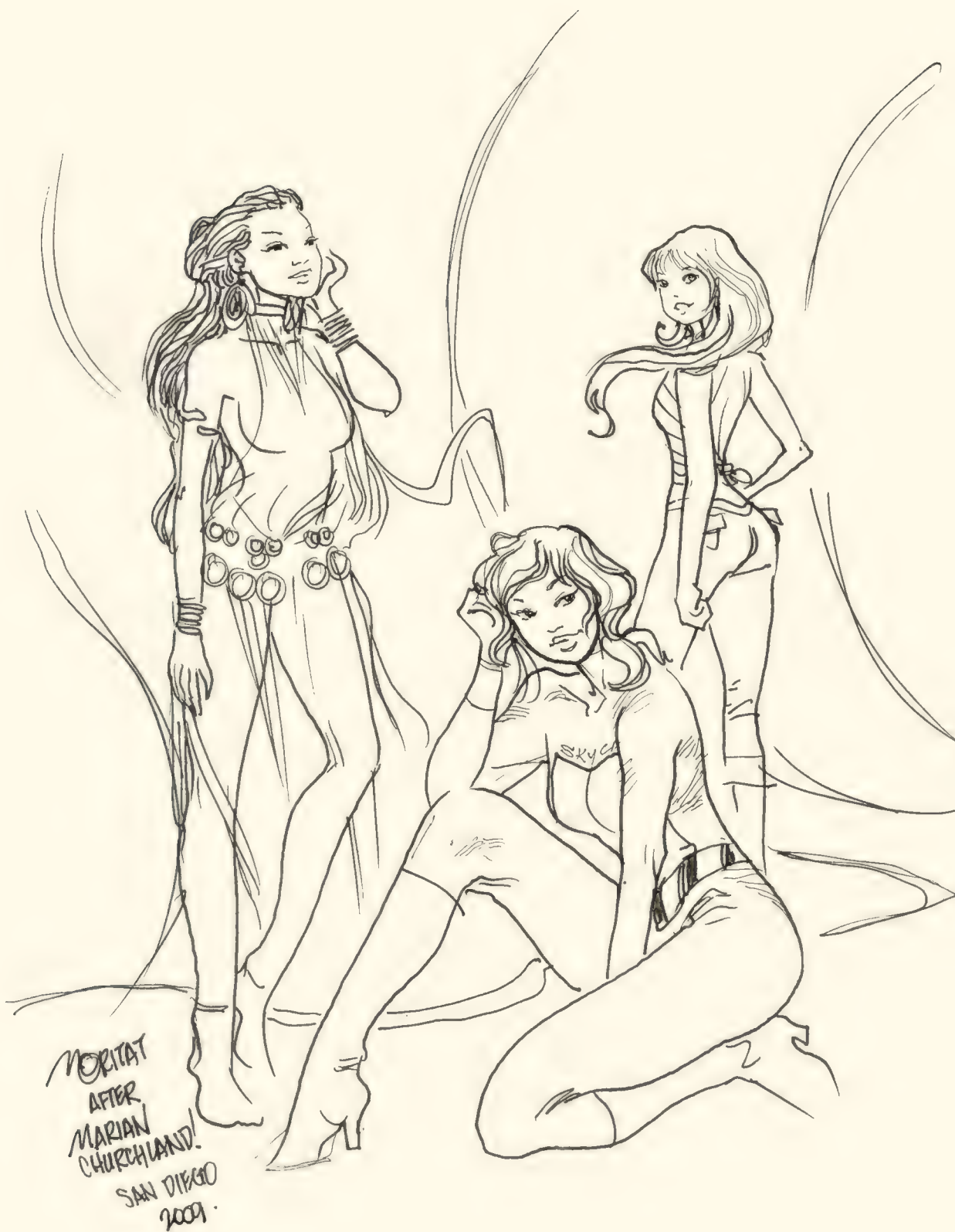
WIZARDWORLD LA!
2007.

When readers first saw Sahara, she was walking across a sand dune, strong, semi-naked and free. Horn needs Sahara to remind him that he is not the man in the suit he pretends to be. Sahara needs Horn because she needs to believe that even the darkest heart is capable of love.



MORITAT SAN DIEGO 2009.

MORITAT.
WONDERCON 2008.



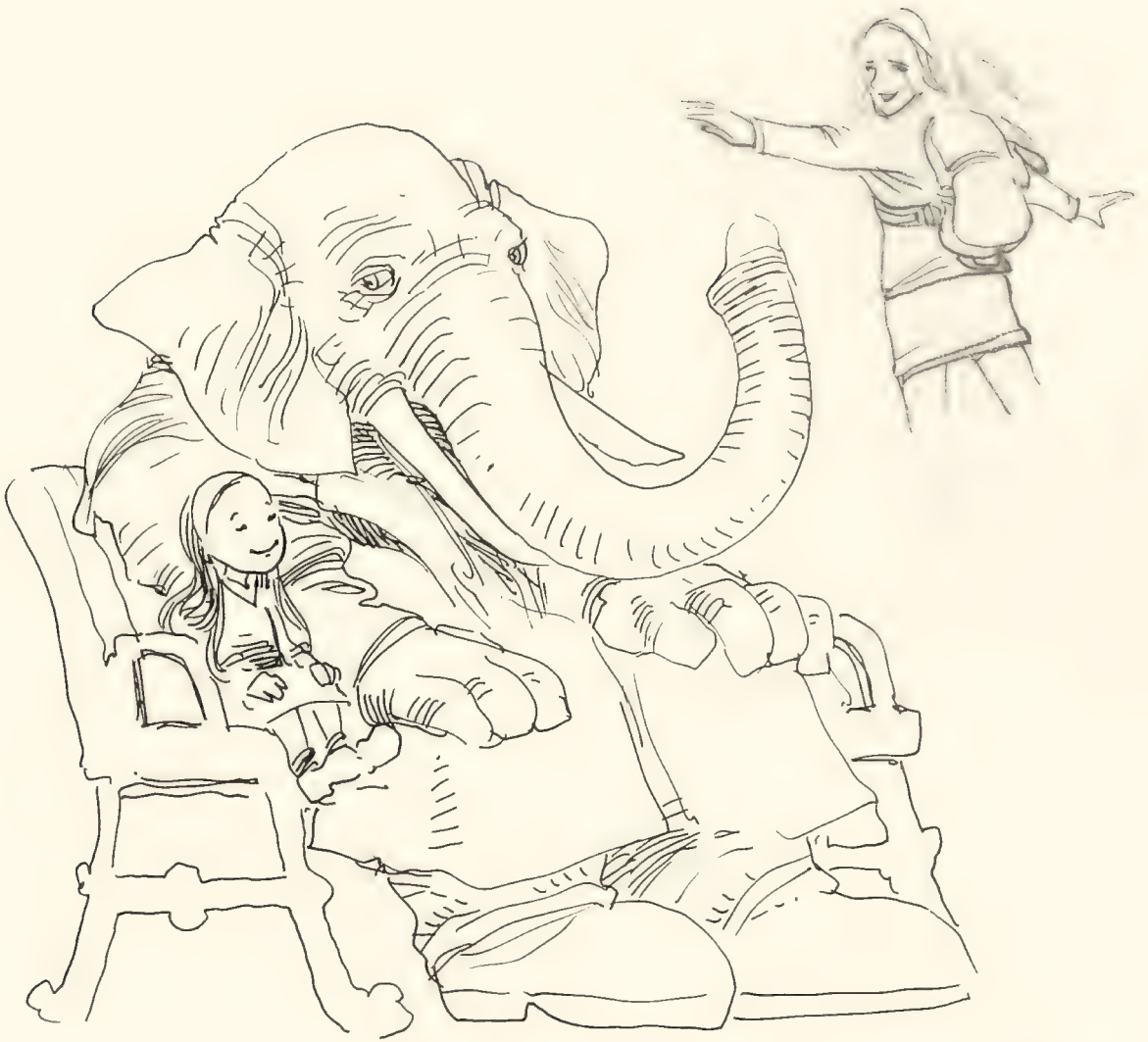
I doubt whether we'll ever see these three characters together in the strip, but Moritat sketched this in San Diego for a fan. Check out Marian's cover on the trade paperback collection, *ELEPHANTMEN: DAMAGED GOODS*, which collects the three stories also found in this volume, along with sketches, illustrations and strips from her website.



MORITAT.
DEC 2009.

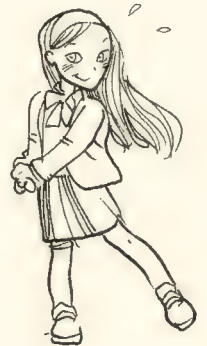
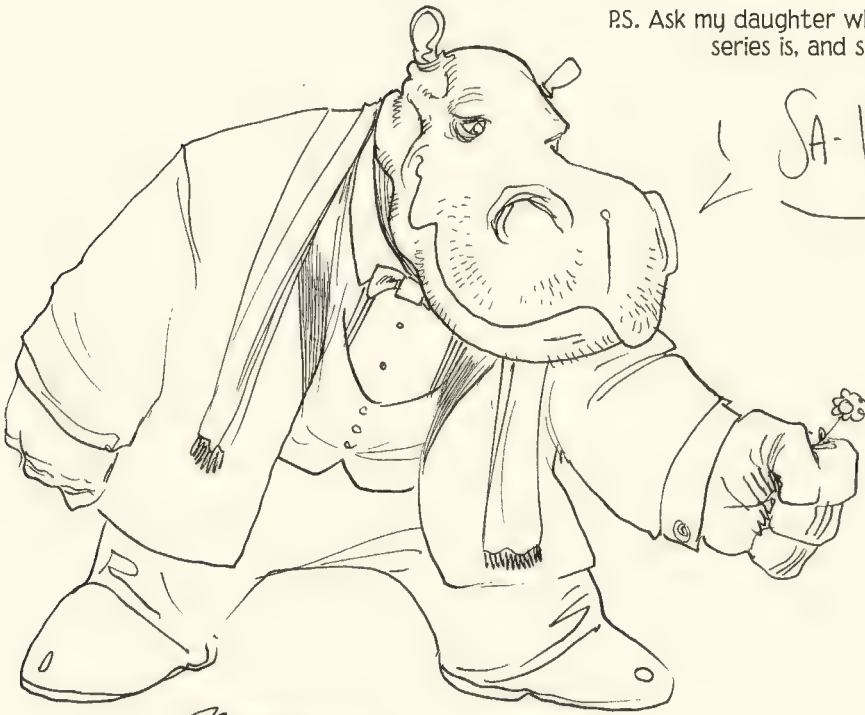
If you met Moritat at a show and have a sketch or two that you haven't seen in this collection, please scan it for us at 300dpi and email it to me at richard@hipflask.com

Richard
Stankings



P.S. Ask my daughter who the real star of the series is, and she'll tell you...

SA-VANNAHHH!



BRITAT
WONDERCON!
2008.



Boo "BOOSTAH!" Cook has been rocking the covers of ELEPHANTMEN since WAR TOYS #1. Featured here are his never-before-published pencils and rough sketches for the covers of four of the issues collected in this very volume, as well as his cover art for the first three ELEPHANTMEN collections, including the cover pencils for the reprint of ELEPHANTMEN VOLUME 1, which hasn't even been published yet!

WAR TOYS

ELEPHANTMEN



SOLID
DESATURATED
MINT GREEN
(HOSP. SCENE COLOURS)





HORUS -
RED
OR
BLUE?























* ULLAPATHAN 'EBONY HIDE'!

- FOR MY 6-15 CHILDREN!

END CARD

12/15/05





天
地
風
雲
傳
世
武
俠
漫
畫

天
地
風
雲
傳
世
武
俠
漫
畫

André Szymanowicz,
a.k.a ASTROBRAIN...

FIRST
ATTEMPT
EVER →

IF I CAN,

WOULD LIKE
TO MAKE HER
LIKE A CUTE,
ASIAN
AUDREY
HEPBURN
(BUT W/ YOU KNOW)

NOT
REALLY
RIGHT
HAND

ANDRE
2-09









ANDRE '09

INKS = ANDRÉ
PENCILS = MORITAT.
SAN DIEGO
2009!



MORITAT: INKS
SAN DIEGO 2009.
ANDRÉ = PENCILS

COPIED
FROM
JUSTIN



I first met André Szymanowicz -- or SIZZLE as we like to call him when we're trying to shoehorn his credit into a ridiculously small space -- at a crêpe restaurant in Seattle. On that auspicious occasion, Moritat insisted to me that André, and another young artist by the name of Gabe Bautista, were both capable of drawing an issue of ELEPHANTMEN in the near future. I was too involved in enjoying my banana nutella crêpe to pay much heed then, but one year later André made me sit up and take notice when he waved his self-published SUSHI NACHOS in front of me. Perhaps my wits were sharpened that day by the absence of crêpes in the New York area, or, indeed, the absence of Moritat himself; no matter, I loved what I saw and offered André an issue of ELEPHANTMEN right then and there...

So now, you hold André Szymanowicz's first professional comic book work in YOUR hot little hands, and, as an added bonus, André has kindly allowed us to re-present SUSHI NACHOS (also featured in Image's Harvey Award winning anthology series POPGUN -- VOLUME 3) for your edification and enjoyment right here, right now.



André was a natural choice for Vanity's sushi adventure (Issue #22, and has been helping us out with art correx and show appearances ever since. One word of advice should you ever meet him, though: DON'T let him buy you nachos.

Rich!
TO SAVANNAH!
FROM
ANDRE

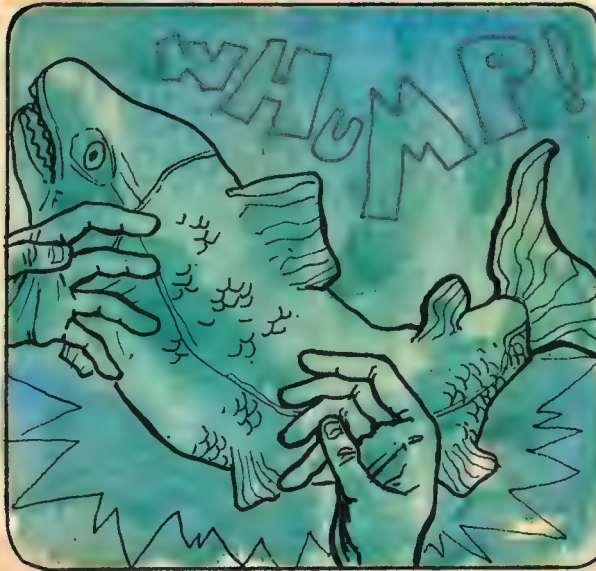
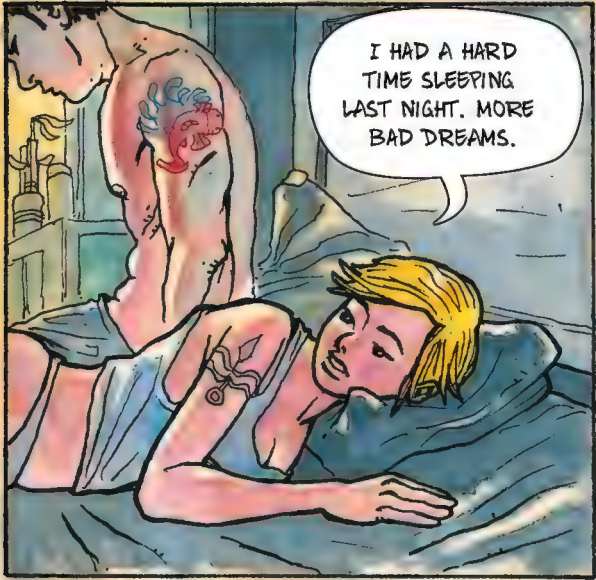
Sushi Nachos

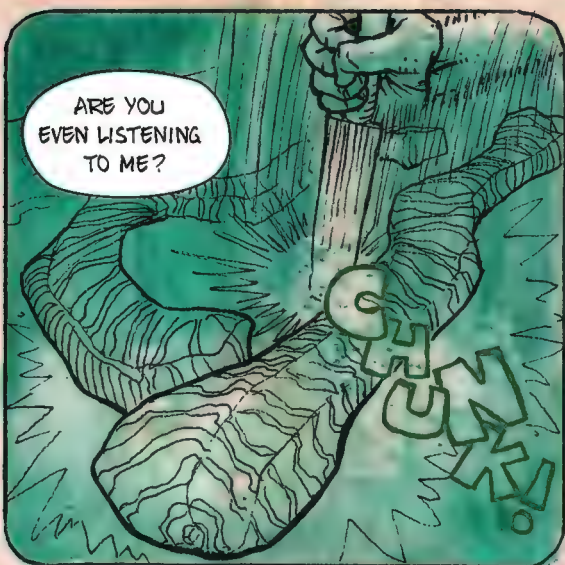
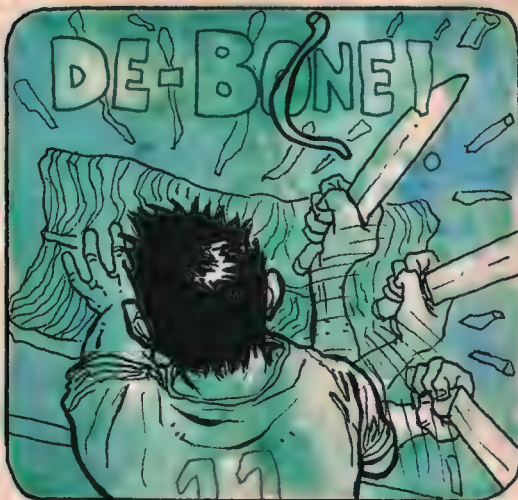
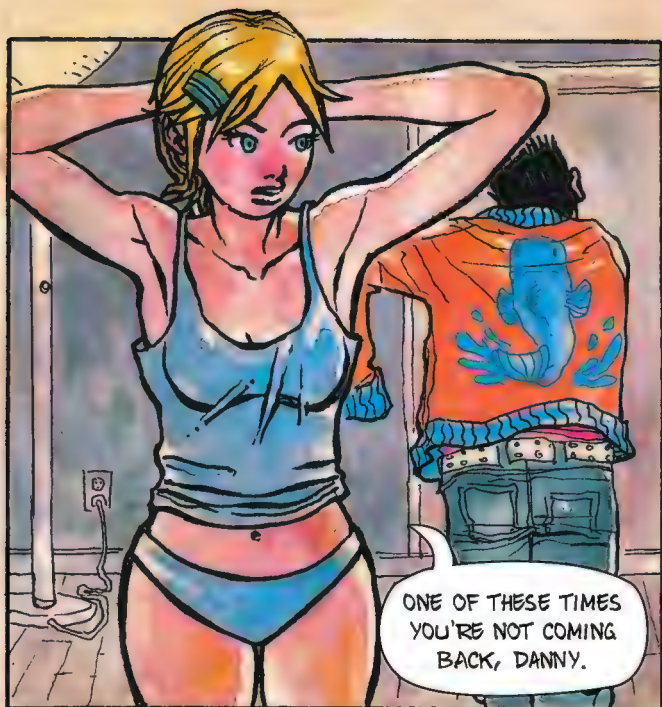


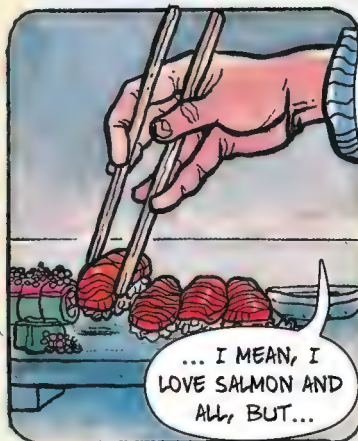
PANDA PIRATE SUSHI

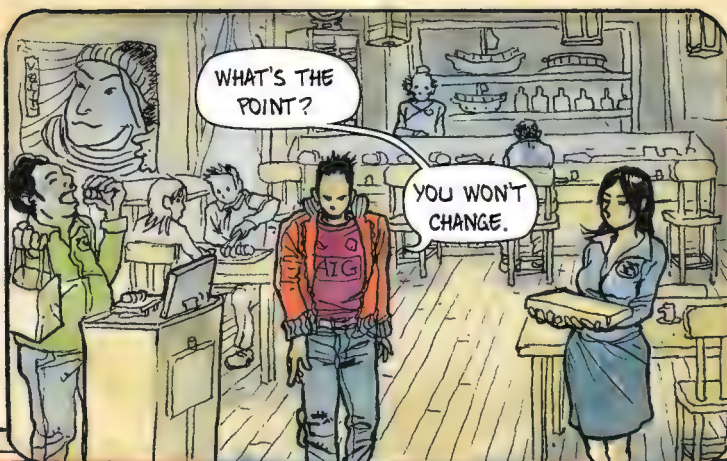


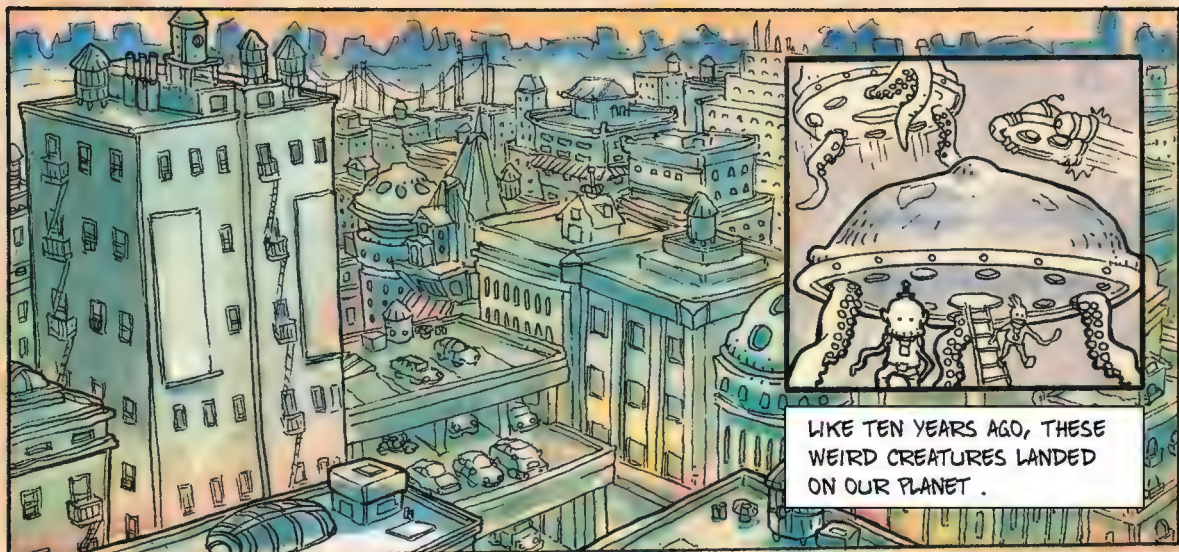
ANDRE
C8







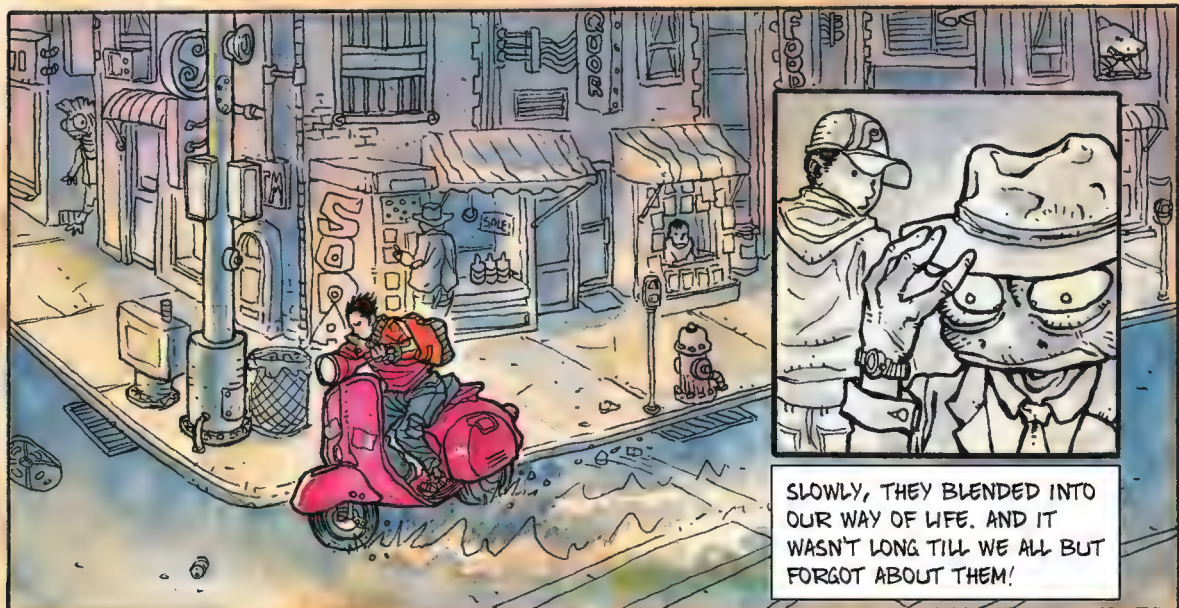




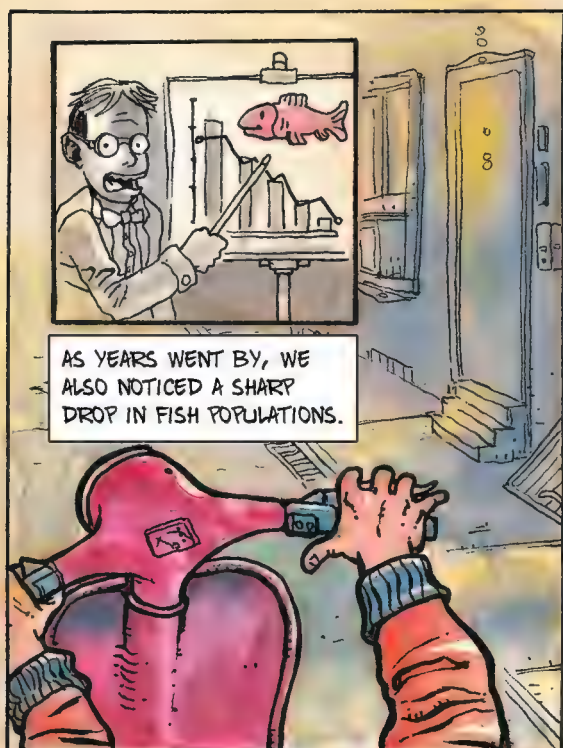
LIKE TEN YEARS AGO, THESE WEIRD CREATURES LANDED ON OUR PLANET.



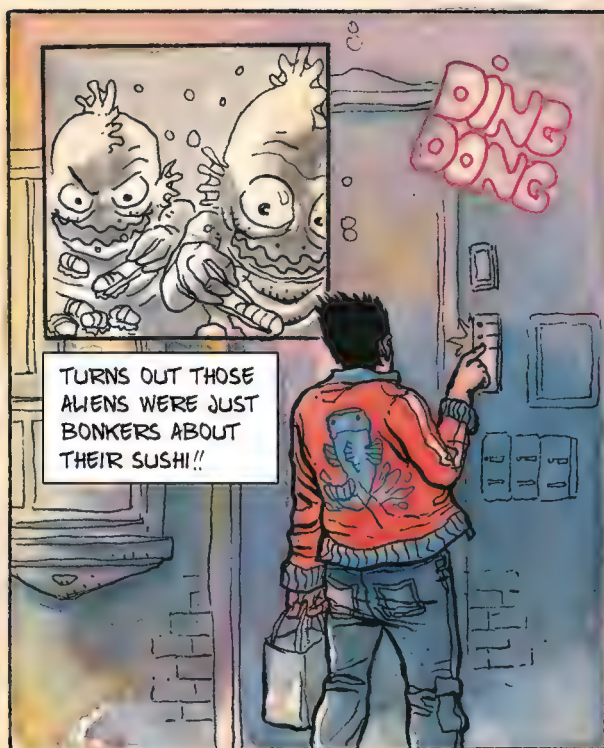
THEY WERE CREEPY, BUT NICE, SO WE LET THEM STAY!



SLOWLY, THEY BLENDED INTO OUR WAY OF LIFE. AND IT WASN'T LONG TILL WE ALL BUT FORGOT ABOUT THEM!



AS YEARS WENT BY, WE
ALSO NOTICED A SHARP
DROP IN FISH POPULATIONS.

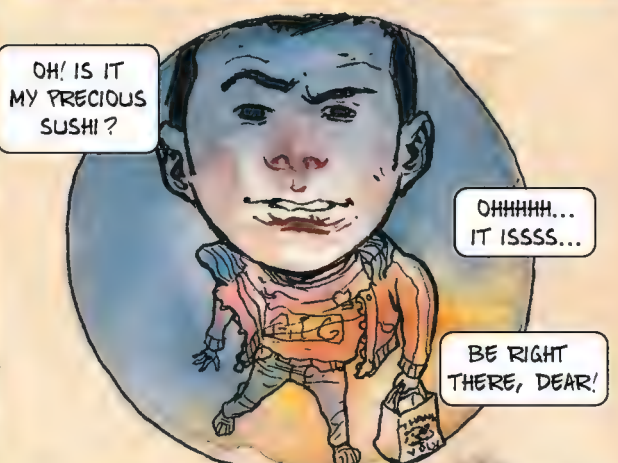


TURNS OUT THOSE
ALIENS WERE JUST
BONKERS ABOUT
THEIR SUSHI!!



PIRATE PANDA!

HELLOOO!?



OH! IS IT
MY PRECIOUS
SUSHI?

OHHHHH...
IT ISSSS...

BE RIGHT
THERE, DEAR!

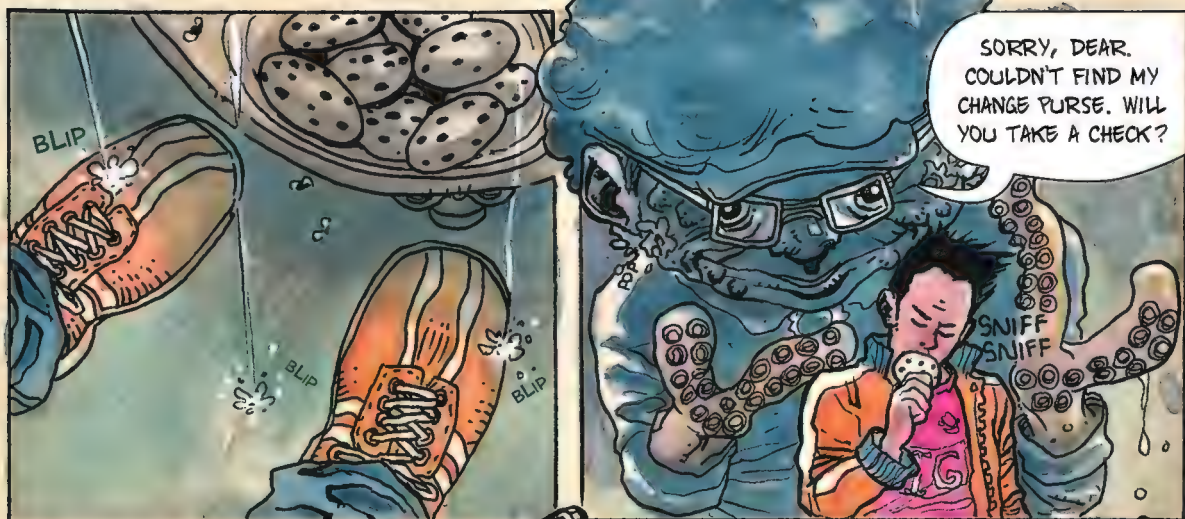


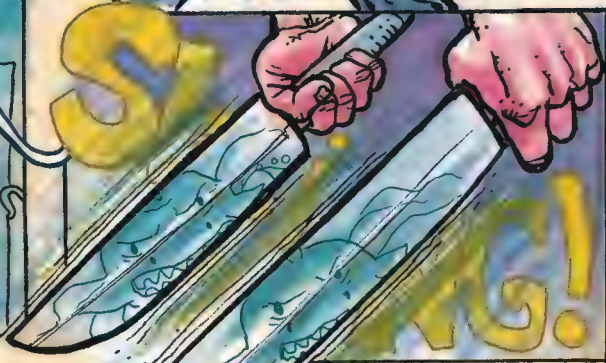
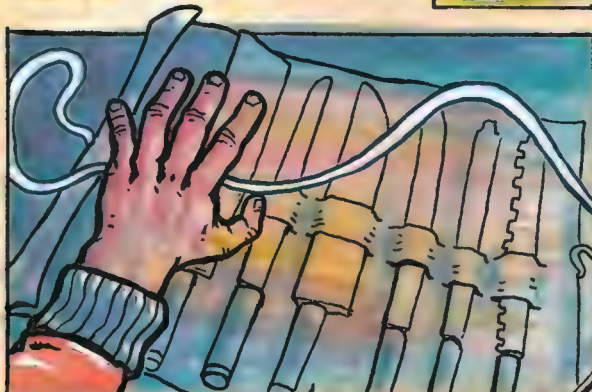
PLEASE COME
IN, YOUNG MAN!

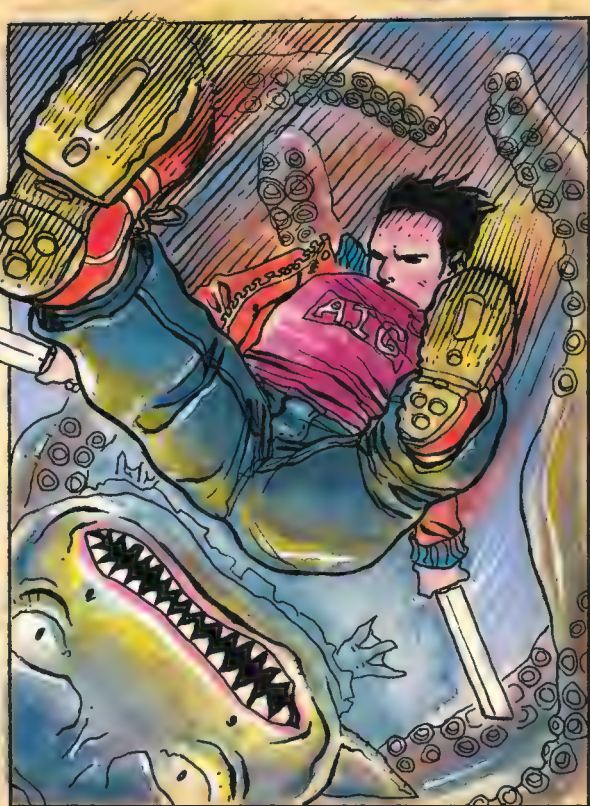
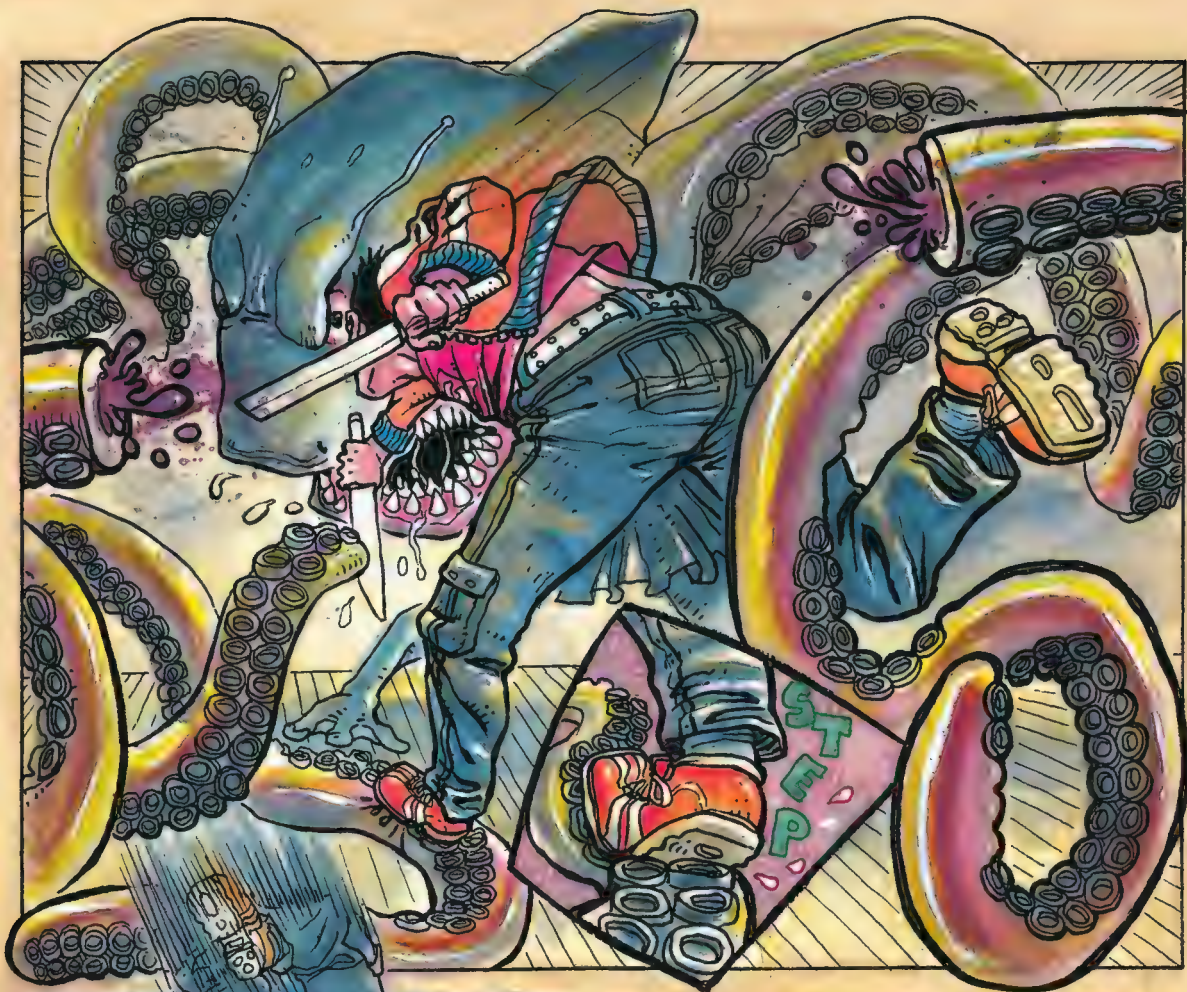


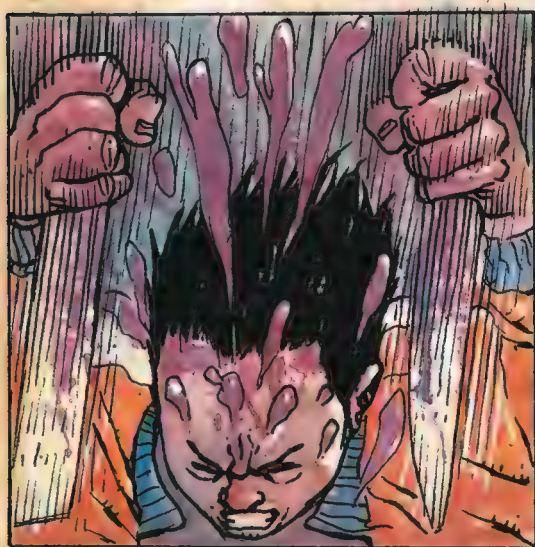
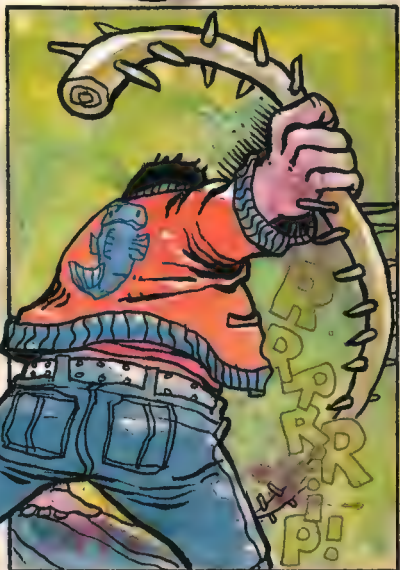
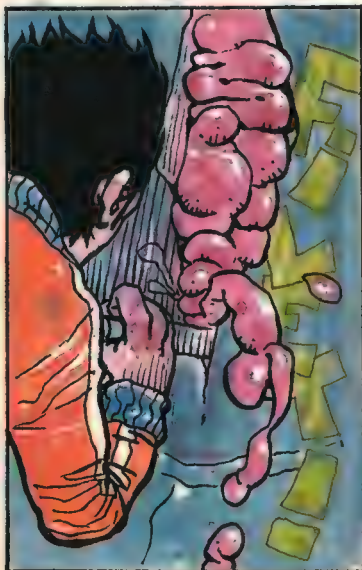
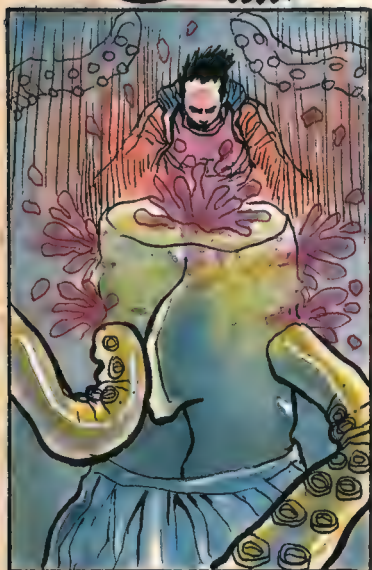
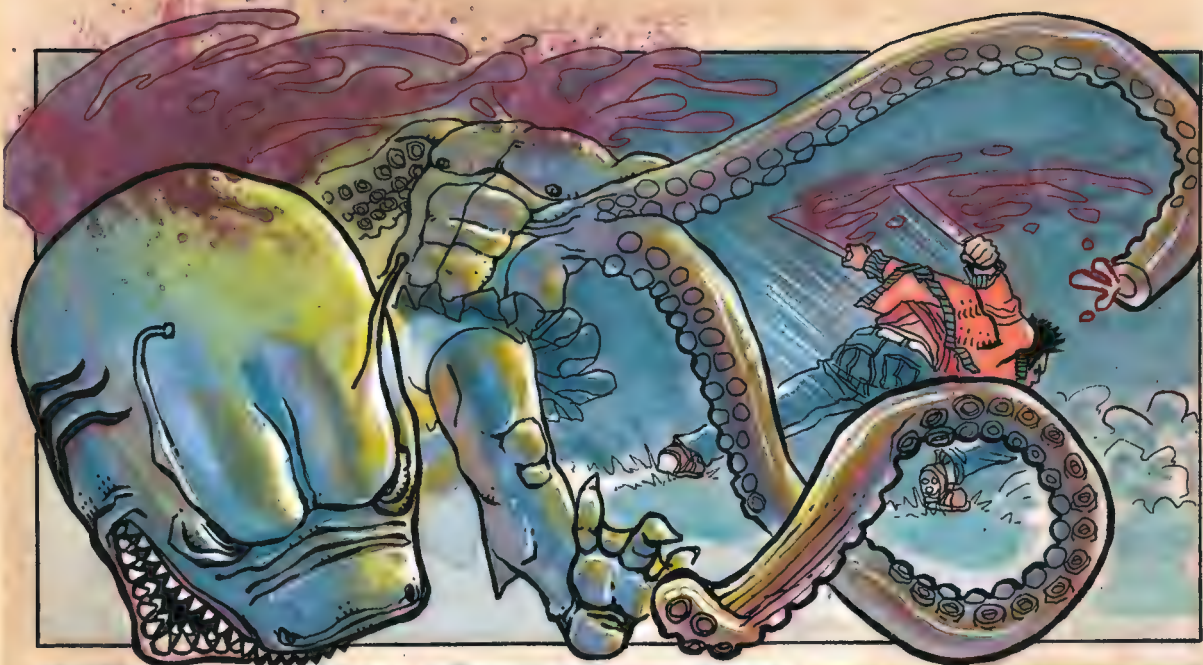
HELP YOURSELF
TO SOME COOKIES.
I'LL BE RIGHT
WITH YOU!

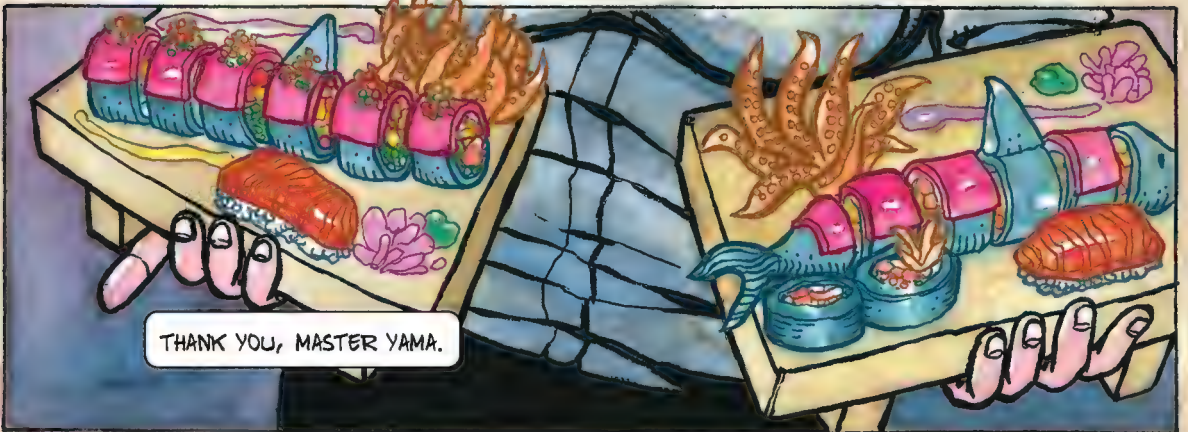
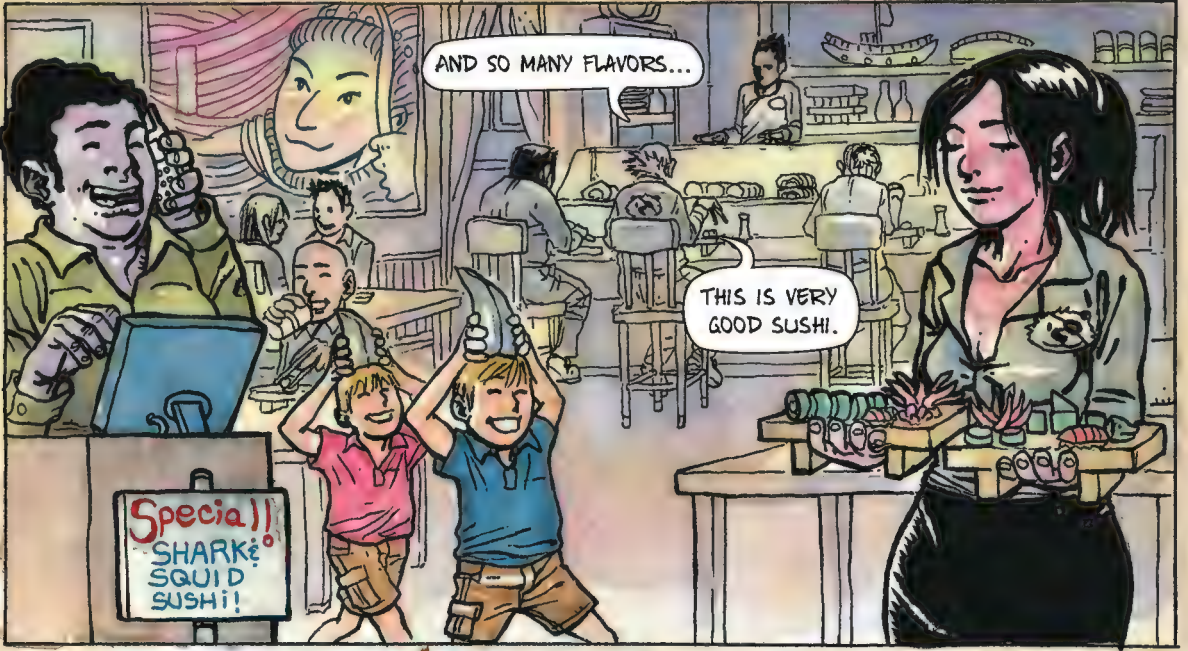
OK,
SWEET!

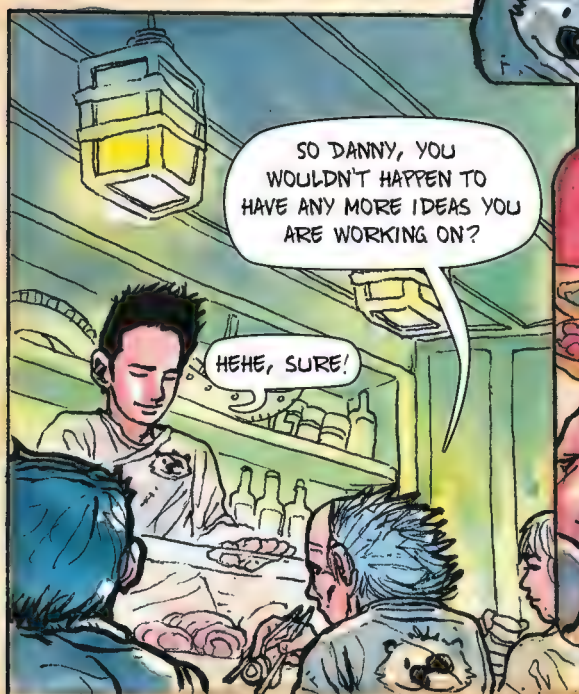
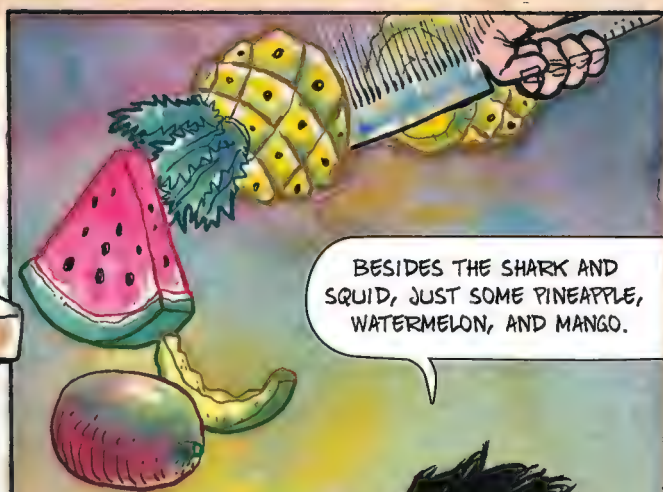








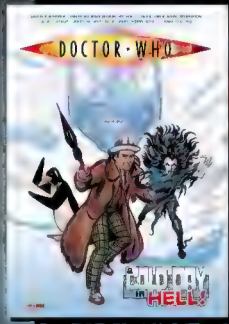






with Monifa as Sahara

RICHARD STARKINGS is the creator of **HIP FLASK**, **ELEPHANTMEN** and his semi-autobiographical comic strip, **HEDGE BACKWARDS**. Born and raised in England, Starkings worked for five years at Marvel UK's London offices as editor, designer and occasional writer of **ZOIDS**, **GHOSTBUSTERS**, **TRANSFORMERS** and the **DOCTOR WHO** comic strip. He is perhaps best known for his work with the award-winning Comicraft design and lettering studio, which he founded in 1992 with John 'JG' Roshell. Starkings & Roshell also co-authored the best-selling books **COMIC BOOK LETTERING THE COMICRAFT WAY** and **TIM SALE: BLACK AND WHITE**.



ISBN #0-97667-611-7
PREVIEWS #APR052512



with Rosana as Vanity

MORITAT, a.k.a. "Justin Norman," has suffered from kidney stones, carpal tunnel syndrome and had his gall bladder removed during the course of the **ELEPHANTMEN** series. He is still recovering from being the artist of **STRAY MOONBEAMS**, **ATTRACTIVE FORCES**, **THE 3RD DEGREE** and **SOLSTICE**.



Boo as Casbah Joe

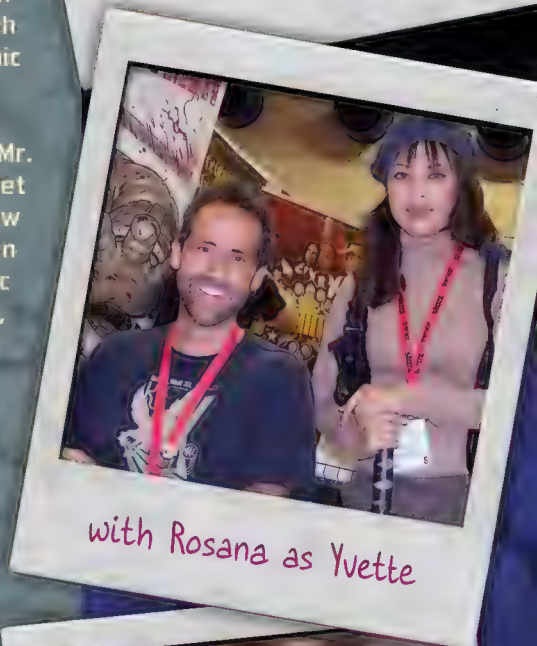
BOO COOK has worked on **ZOOAD** for Tharg the Mighty in Blighty for nine years now, drawing favorites such as **JUDGE DREDD**, **JUDGE ANDERSON**, **A.B.C. WARRIORS** and a basketcase of covers.



MARIAN CHURCHLAND was born in Canada in 1982, and was raised on a strict diet of fine literature and epic fantasy video games. She has a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies (English Literature and Visual Arts) from the University of British Columbia, and has been doing professional illustration work, including book covers and magazine articles, since she was 17. In 2008, she became the first woman to solo-illustrate a CONAN story, and in 2009 Image Comics released her first graphic novel, **BEAST**, to much acclaim. She lives in Vancouver, BC with her gentleman caller (and fellow comic artist) Brandon Graham.



JOHN ROSHELL, a.k.a. "JG", a.k.a. "Mr. Fantastic", a.k.a. "Comcraft's Secret Weapon", grew up nary an iPod's throw from Apple headquarters in Northern California. These days he uses the Mac to create fonts and design books, logos and websites, including the official Elephantmen site at HipFlask.com, from his home in Santa Barbara. He is also working on a top secret project in an undisclosed location -- look for sneak peeks in the back of **ELEPHANTMEN** throughout 2010...



with Rosana as Yvette

ISBN #0-57405-673-1
PREVIEWS # JAN03 1884



GREGORY WRIGHT's origin began on staff at Marvel comics. A Marvel/Epic Comic editor known to wield a small bat when discussing deadlines, he found that freelance writing and coloring was much less stressful and far more fulfilling. Greg has worked on everything from **SPIDER-MAN** to **BATMAN** to **ROBOCOP** to **DEATHLOK** and **SILVER SABLE**. His favorite color work is **BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN**. To the surprise of many of his friends, he's actually happily married with a daughter who reportedly has many of his most annoying traits.





with Nova as Miki



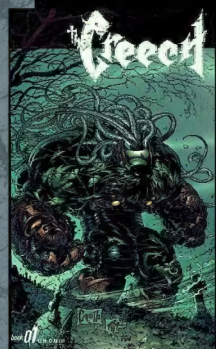
LADRÖNN was born and raised in Veracruz, Mexico, and never considered creating comics, especially not for the American market, until after he visited the San Diego Comic Con in 1995. His incredible painted work was first published in a short story for the THOR 2000 Annual before he started work on THE INHUMANS. He was twice nominated for Eisner awards for his work on HIP FLASK, and finally received the Eisner award for best painter for HIP FLASK: MYSTERY CITY [collected in HIP FLASK: CONCRETE JUNGLE]. His covers have recently graced DC's GREEN ARROW/BLACK CANARY and THE SPIRIT, and he is currently working on HIP FLASK: DUREBOROUS.

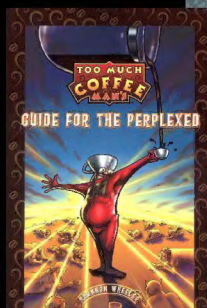
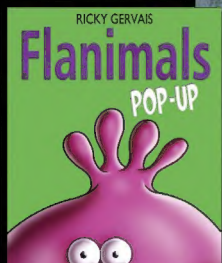
Let's get it down in print, once and for all: CHRIS BURNHAM never wants to spend another second doing graphic design. After nearly a decade of dividing his time between comics and kerning, enough is enough. If it doesn't involve drawing a jetpack, a pile of rubble, or a horribly misshapen monster, Chris would rather just stay in bed. That said, Chris would rather do graphic design than drink diet soda. Aspartame is the Devil's ejaculate, and anyone who tells you different has had their tongue replaced with cardboard.

TATTO CABALLERO was born in Monterrey, Mexico in 1982. As a member of Protobunker Studio, he has contributed color to titles such as HERCULES: THE NEW LABORS for Marvel, FINAL INCAL, MILLÉNAIRE, and EL NIÑO for Les Humanoïdes Associés, and MAYDAY and MAGUS for Glénat.

J. SCOTT CAMPBELL was initially discovered in the first Homage Studios talent search. His dynamic storytelling and animated style lent themselves perfectly to the smash-hit series GEN13 and his own DANGER GIRL. Campbell resides in Colorado where he currently draws beautiful girls for his FAIRYTALE FANTASIES calendars and SPIDER-MAN for Marvel Comics.

GREG CAPULLO is best known for his work on SPAWN for Image comics. He also created six issues of his own comic THE CREECH, also published by Image. Apart from comics, he's drawn covers for the Korn album *Follow the Leader* and the Disturbed album *Ten Thousand Fists*, and was part of the crew who created the animated sequences in the film *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*.





IAN CHURCHILL left a career in graphic design to work professionally in comics in 1994, when he was hired on the spot at a London comic convention by Marvel's editor-in-chief at the time, Bob Harras. Alongside Jeph Loeb, Churchill took Marvel's X-Men title, CABLE to new heights shortly before Joe Casey and Ladrone created their memorable run on the book. Before landing his current assignment, Loeb's revamped HULK, Churchill illustrated THE AVENGERS, UNCANNY X-MEN, SUPERMAN and a certain character by the name of HIP FLASK -- Huzzah!

ERIK LARSEN is the only Image partner to have written and drawn each and every issue of his original Image series... hell, he's the only one that took a shot at colouring and lettering his book as well... And way back in the early 90's, the fine letterers here at Comcraft lettered the SAVAGE DRAGON issue drawn by Jim Lee -- but Erik wasn't having that and created an alternate version of the issue just to keep his track record complete! When there was talk of a special series of Image titles to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the company, Erik offered to draw a cover for ELEPHANTMEN. WHOOOSH! The next day the finished art was done! What a pro!

ROB STEEN arrived at his current profession in illustration after careers as a musician, morgue technician, record store clerk and graphic designer. After graduating from The University of Comcraft under the guidance of Professor Richard Starkings he eventually settled on a sedentary life of drawing. For the last few years he has devoted his life to the study of Flanimals which have produced five books so far with the latest, FLANIMALS POP-UP now available in all good bookstores. He lives in New York with his wife Jill and demented cat Minnie.

ANDRÉ SZYMANOWICZ wanted to work in comics ever since he was a little tyke reading everything he saw in the grocery store spinner racks. Through strange luck and good friends (or vice versa), he has had the honor of being involved in such titles as Image Comics' COMIC BOOK TATTOO, POPGUN, and now ELEPHANTMEN. He lives in New Jersey with his understanding wife and three little boy-shaped hurricanes.

Running wild with an unused degree in Architecture, SHANNON WHEELER lives in Portland, OR where he cartoons for magazines such as *The New Yorker* and *The Onion*. He's best known for his creation TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN.



photo by Amanda Thorson

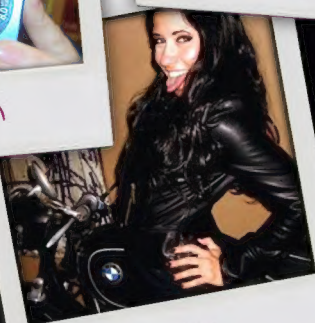
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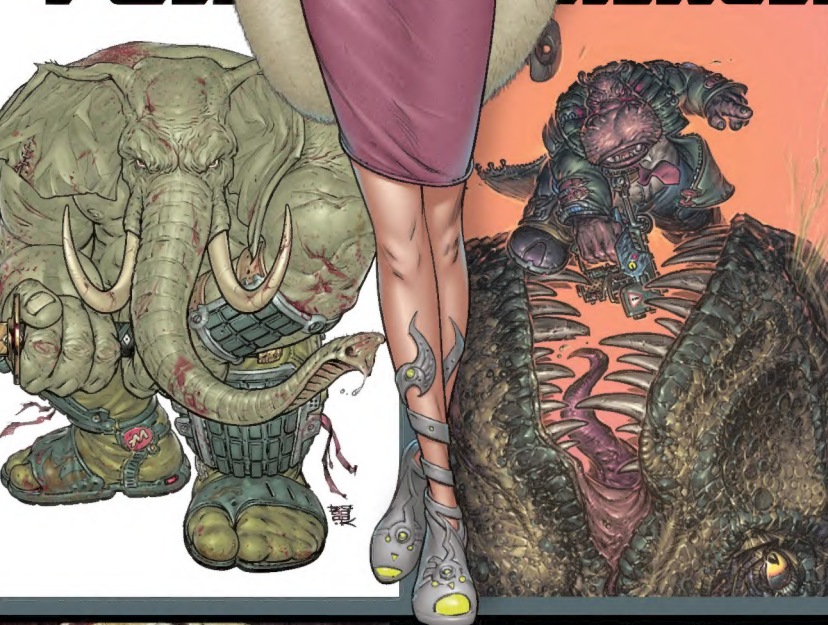
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GIRL IN A DINER TO A WAR-TORN
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